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Call to solve people's problems

Amir presides over first session of cabinet after swearing-in

KUWAIT, June 23, (Kuna): The new Kuwaiti cabinet headed by His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today took the constitutional oath before His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Dr. Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Awadhi

said that the Amir presided over the first session of the new cabinet at the Bayan Palace.

The Amir opened the meeting by welcoming the ministers, wishing them success in performing their duties and responsibilities.

Dr. Awadhi said that the Amir furnished the ministers with his guidances and urged them to sense citizens' problems and to work incessantly to solve them.



The new Kuwaiti cabinet pictured after the swearing in ceremony.

The Amir pointed to the importance of pursuing practical and scientific methods as the basis of work "especially at the current distinctive stage of building our dear homeland," the minister noted.

He added that HH affirmed the necessity of laying down solid basis for constructive and positive co-operation with the National Council and on amalgamating efforts to realise their aspiration for national goals and purposes.

HH the Amir said that such efforts should be utilised to crystallise the hopes for quantum leap within a comprehensive framework and in a way contributing to boosting national unity and solidarity of the society and enhancing its security and stability and pushing forward the country toward more progress, advancement and welfare.

The state minister said that the Amir sincerely appreciated accomplishments of the past

Aoun ready to meet Hirawi

Sabah hails Arab efforts

KUWAIT, June 23, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed welcomed the visit to Kuwait by Lebanese President Elias Hrawi which began today and hoped that the talks between Hrawi and His Highness the Amir would be for the good and stability of Lebanon.

Sheikh Sabah hailed the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon and voiced Kuwait's support for its mission and hoped that it would succeed in reaching a solution.

Commenting on setting up a fund for reconstruction in Lebanon, Sheikh Sabah said Lebanon is really in need of comprehensive reconstruction, but he emphasized that this should be carried out in stable conditions in that sisterly country.



Lebanese President Elias Hrawi (left) with HH the Amir

He added that the Lebanese people should take into consideration that no one can help them effectively unless they are ready and co-operate with the others.

He pointed out a previous decision taken by (Continued on Page 8)

We regret States decision: Sabah

PLO calls for AL meeting

KUWAIT, June 23, (Kuna): Kuwait voiced its deep regret today at the US decision to suspend dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said in an answer to a question from reporters that "we regret decision made by the US administration, particularly at this critical and complex situation which requires a push forward for peace efforts in the Middle East."

He added that "we were completely surprised by this resolution at a time we have been hoping that this year would be a year for resolving all regional problems topped by the Middle East and Palestinian crises."

He further said that his American decision of halting dialogue with the PLO has come "to increase complications of things."

He pointed out that the PLO has asked for an extraordinary meeting for the Arab League council at the level of foreign ministers to discuss the US decision.

Sheikh Sabah added that the Arab foreign ministers would discuss, when they meet, the dimensions and results of the American decision, and would evaluate the situation and take what is deemed appropriate.

Charter
A PLO spokesman told reporters in Baghdad today the call was made under an article of the Arab League charter giving member states the right to call such a conference in the event of a threat to them.

Bush said on Wednesday that he broke off 18 months of contacts with the PLO because the group's Chairman Yasser Arafat had failed to condemn a Palestinian commando raid on Israeli beaches last month, despite his 1988 renunciation of terrorism.

The PLO condemned the US decision, saying it would push the Middle East towards war.

The PLO made its call for the emergency Arab League conference at the end of a meeting in the Iraqi capital last night between Arafat, Arab League Secretary-General Cheddi Kibbi and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

The three discussed foreign threats against 'Arab security', Bush's decision and the current Soviet Jewish exodus to Israel and the occupied Arab territories, the PLO spokesman said.

He said the PLO had also called for another urgent meeting of the nine-member Arab committee for the support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories next Thursday. The committee also comprises Arab foreign ministers.

He said the PLO had prepared some proposals to be discussed with the Arab foreign ministers, including a call for the convening of the Joint Arab Defence Council to confront foreign threats.

Reconsider
Saudi Arabia has asked the United States to reconsider its decision to suspend its 18-month long dialogue with the PLO.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an official government source last night as expressing Riyadh's concern at Washington's

decision to break-off talks, until the PLO condemned last month's airborne attack against Israel.

"The Saudi kingdom appeals to the US government to reconsider its decision... and to pursue its efforts seeking negotiation and dialogue over the settlement of conflicts," the agency quoted the source as saying.

"We were surprised by the US decision to suspend the talks at a time when we were expecting that its results would be successful," he added.

The agency said Saudi Arabia considered the suspension of the talks a setback to peace.

King Fahd today made a personal donation of \$20 million to support the Palestinians of the intifada, it was officially announced.

The covering cheque was received by Prince Salman, governor of Riyadh and chairman of "the Popular Committee for Support of the Palestinian Struggles," according to an announcement by the official Saudi Press Agency.

Italy criticised Washington's decision saying it was "a grave mistake."

Achieve
Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said Italy would take initiatives to achieve dialogue in the Middle East as soon as it assumed the rotating presidency of the European Economic Community (EEC) on July 1.

Palestinian leader Mohammad Abbas said he and his tiny faction are open to investigation by Yasser Arafat over the May 30 raid against the Israeli coast and promised to accept any disciplinary action by the PLO chairman.

Abbas known by his nom de guerre Abu Abbas said in a statement distributed to foreign agencies in Baghdad that he has offered a complete file of the attack operations to Arafat to prove that the raid was aimed at military targets and not civilian ones.

Egypt's foreign minister will go to Washington for talks with President George Bush next week, the state-run Middle East News Agency said.

The agency said the Washington trip by Emad Abdel-Meguid was agreed in a telephone conversation today between Bush and President Hosni Mubarak.

Bush initiated the phone call, the agency said in an unsecured report that had the customary ring of a handout from Mubarak's office.

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the main topic in Abdel-Meguid's talks with Bush will be how to "contain the fallout from recent major setbacks to Middle East peace efforts."

Hitches
He said the principal hitches were the suspension of the 18-month American-PLO dialogue and Israel's opposition to US peace proposals.

Foreign Ministry sources said Abdel-Meguid will leave for Washington Sunday morning.

A statement from Mubarak's office on Thursday expressed regret at the US decision and hope that the suspension "will be lifted in the shortest possible time and that its negative effects will be overcome."

Toll reaches 40,000

Dead buried uncounted

TEHRAN, June 23, (AP): Three strong aftershocks rocked northern Iran today as hopes faded of finding many more buried victims alive three days after an earthquake killed at least 40,000 people.

But rescuers freed a woman from a pile of rubble in the flattened town of Roodbar, still alive and clutching a dead child, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Victims in the town of 100,000 people were buried in mass graves "without counting the bodies" because of the heavy death toll, it said. The quake destroyed the only hospital there.

The US government prepared to airlift blankets, tents, water jugs and other relief supplies to Iran, saying it was informed by Iranian authorities that American assistance would be welcome.

The biggest aftershock, registering 4.2 on the Richter scale, rocked the Tarom-e Oila region 125 miles (200 kms) northwest of Tehran at 11.14 am (0744 GMT), the agency said.

Another shock had jolted the northern provincial capital of Rasht early in the morning, "making panic-stricken residents take to the streets," it said. There was also a third aftershock.

"Aftershocks, which continue in the mountainous areas, are endangering relief operations," the agency said.

More than 200 tremors have been registered since early Thursday when the killer quake struck, it said.

"Our people have learned to resist difficulties, and consider the national disaster to be a divine test," President Hashemi Rafsanjani told visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

"We have submitted ourselves to God's will."

(Continued on Page 12)

Pictorial

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Kuwait sends relief to quake victims

KUWAIT, June 23, (Reuters): Kuwait said today it was sending urgent relief aid to earthquake victims in Iran, the official Kuwait news agency (Kuna) reported.

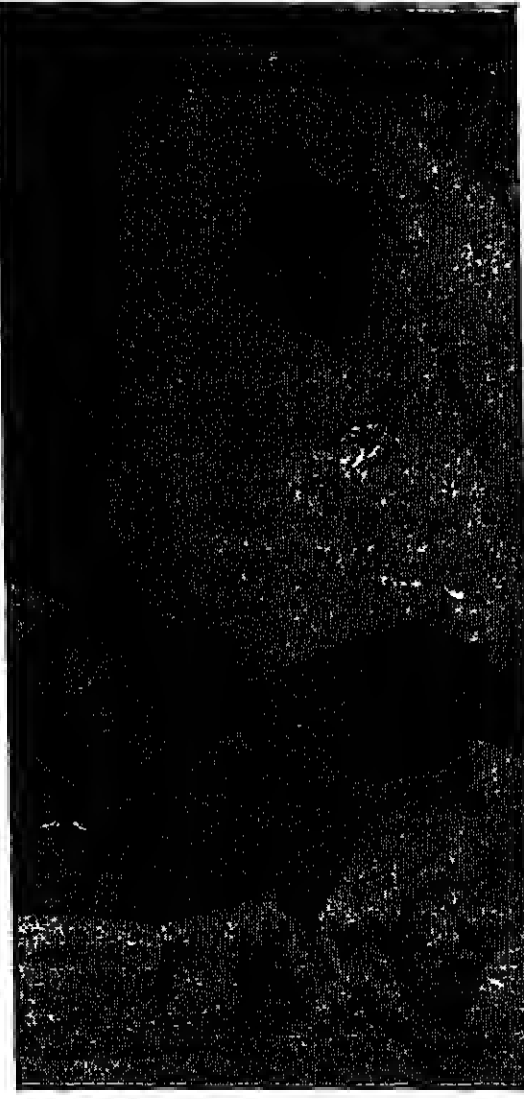
It quoted Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, as saying the decision to send relief to Iran was made by HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

Kuna said a plane was due to leave for Iran later in the day carrying blankets, tents, medical supplies and medicines. More aid would be sent shortly, it added.

Kuwait newspapers reported today that the Amir and HH the Crown Prince, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, have sent their condolences to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Iranian embassy in Kuwait today, took out newspaper advertisements appealing to Iranians living in Kuwait to make donations to the earthquake victims.

Life and death ... 'We have submitted ourselves to God's will'



An Iranian nurse helps a quake survivor 14-year-old Ibrahim Chaharlanghi in a Tehran hospital. At night a father drags the body of his child wrapped in a blanket towards the cemetery. (Reuters wirephoto)



Lankan killings falsely reported

COLOMBO, June 23, (AP): The military acknowledged today that it falsely reported that Tamil Tiger separatists had hacked to death 62 Muslim men, women and children a day earlier.

Officials said only three Muslim men were killed when rebels looted a village in eastern Sri Lanka, a flashpoint to the country's 12-day-old civil war. They said they had based their earlier report on faulty information from residents.

Yesterday, the Defence Ministry and a Muslim political leader said about 100 rebels had looted and massacred 62 Muslim civilians at Nintavur village, 45 kms (30 miles) south of Batticaloa town. The allegation was reported by major international news agencies and appeared on the front page of every major Indian newspaper.

The officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said they were misinformed by fleeing villagers.

"Having reached the village late Friday, troops found only three Muslims killed," one official said. "The villagers panicked and in the confusion exaggerated the killings."

Initial reports were based mainly on information provided by villagers who reached a nearby army camp.

Meanwhile, government troops destroyed rebel hideouts and bunkers today in the Tamil-dominated north and east, military officials said. About 30 rebels and 11 soldiers were reported killed.

Rebel forces, which launched withering attacks yesterday, were again put on the defensive in the civil war that has killed at

(Continued on Page 2)



How much would you pay for a whiff of Joan Collins?



Gorbachev ponders a remark at the party conference!

Gorbachev won't step down: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said today he would not step down as Communist Party chief and he issued a dramatic appeal for party unity.

Speaking at the end of a Russian party conference, he said the posts of state president and party general secretary would eventually have to be divided.

But the 59-year-old Kremlin chief, who holds both posts, added: "Now I am convinced that we have to keep the situation as it is because we now have the most crucial situation." (Reuters)

Cameroon in quarterfinals: Cameroon became the first African team to qualify for the quarterfinals of the World Cup when they beat Colombia 2-1 after extra time today.

Thirty-eight-year-old substitute Roger Milla scored twice in three minutes in the second half of extra time to take Cameroon into a quarterfinal against England in Belgium in Naples on July 1.

Czechoslovakia rout Costa Rica 4-1; Cameroon edge past Colombia 2-1.

Typhoon Ofelia hits Taiwan: Typhoon Ofelia slammed into eastern Taiwan today packing 137 kms (85 mile) per-hour winds, killing five people, after leaving at least 30 people dead in the Philippines, officials said.

Tiepolo painting stolen: Thieves stole a priceless 18th century painting from a Venice church in a nighttime rooftop burglary that may have been commissioned by a private collector, Venice police said today.

Sudan boat capsizes: Twenty-nine persons drowned to death and 52 others were missing and presumed dead after their ferry boat sank in the Nile in central Sudan; the Sudan News Agency reported today.

SHUA'A Investment Company was planning to publish an advertisement showing its annual budget in Al Sayassah.

As the chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdul Aziz Al Sager is also the company chairman, he ordered that the advertisement be published in Al Qabas and Al Watan dailies.

We are unable to ascertain the reason for this shift, but are confident that he did not like the political line of Al Sayassah.

What should be realized is that this political line cannot be changed by a small advertisement — the value of which may be less than a small indemnity paid by Al Sayassah to a small employee who wants to see his family back home.

Thanks to Mr Al Sager who it seems likes to follow minor details — even if this entails long decision periods.

Zahed Matar

Dhaka opposition unites

Call for national strike

DHAKA, June 23. (Reuters) Bangladesh's three opposition alliances have called for a national strike next Thursday in a renewed show of unity aimed at toppling President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

The three alliances, representing 20 political parties,

said today the 12-hour stoppage would unleash a fresh campaign against Ershad, who has ruled this impoverished South Asian nation for more than eight years.

"Let us try once again to get rid of military dictatorship," they said in three separate but similar statements.

They criticised the new national budget in which the government has proposed extra taxes of \$171.47 million on a large number of consumer and luxury goods.

"This government has imposed taxes on salt, sugar and edible oil. Who is going to be affected? Only the poor people out there," the alliances said.

They said they feared the additional taxes will be used to beef up the military.

9 killed in Kashmir violence

Rebels drown suspected informer in Jhelum river

SRINAGAR, June 23. (Agencies) Muslim rebels drowned a suspected police informer in the Jhelum river today while hundreds of onlookers watched without interfering, binding his arms behind his back and pushing him from a bridge into the waterway 30 feet (10 m) below, witnesses said.

The man was one of nine people reported killed today in the Kashmir valley, where Muslim rebels are waging a struggle to gain independence from India. The others slain included a Hindu government worker and the nephew of a former cabinet minister.

Muslim rebels say they want an independent Kashmir because the Hindu-dominated administration in New Delhi has for years denied them equal access to government jobs.

Despite the presence of hundreds of people in the busy area, including a number of boatmen on the waterway, no one attempted to pull the man from the river, witnesses said. They said from his dress, the man appeared to be a Muslim.

Also today, Muslim militants in Anantnag, 30 miles (50 km) south of Srinagar, shot and killed Ayub Qureshi. Police sources said he had been shot six times and apparently was suspected of being a police informer.

Qureshi was the nephew of Mohammed Shafi Qureshi, the current Congress (I) party chief in Jammu and Kashmir state.

Seven other people were reported killed today, including a Kashmiri Hindu who was employed by the government and five men whose bodies were found floating in the Jhelum river 35 miles (60 km) northwest of Srinagar. They apparently had been slain by rebels who suspected them of working as police informants.

The violence came as a curfew continued for a fifth consecutive day on parts of the old city around the Eid Gah prayer ground, where residents have erected a "martyrs' graveyard" for those killed in clashes with the Indian security forces.

Indian Home Affairs Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, on an Arab tour to counter the Pakistani view of violence in Kashmir, said today he had shown Tunisian leaders evidence that Islamabad backed "terrorism".

"Pakistan is aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab. We have produced concrete proof whereby Pakistan has a large number of training camps, where people from Kashmir and Punjab are trained on arms and given financial help," Sayeed told a news conference in Tunis.

Lanka

least 1,400 combatants and many civilians since fighting broke out June 11.

The main troop advance came from the eastern coastal village of Kiran to Batticaloa town. By late yesterday, troops had moved four miles (six kilometres), destroying five rebel bunkers and clearing land mines, according to military officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Troops arrested 100 suspected rebels at Karaitivu village, one of the three towns where soldiers were consolidating their positions in eastern Batticaloa district, officials said.

Rebels killed six soldiers when they blew up a jeep with a remote control device in northeastern Sri Lanka, officials said.

They said the incident occurred when the soldiers were travelling from Padawiya to Pulmoddai in northeast Trincomalee district.

Four soldiers also were killed and eight wounded when troops destroyed four rebel hideouts on the outskirts of northern Vavuniya district, officials said.

The rebels reportedly have suffered heavy casualties in the attacks. Unconfirmed reports said 15 Tigers were killed in the operations.

Fifteen more rebels were reported killed today when navy gunships destroyed a guerrilla boat on the sea of Velvetiturai on Jaffna peninsula in the north, officials said.

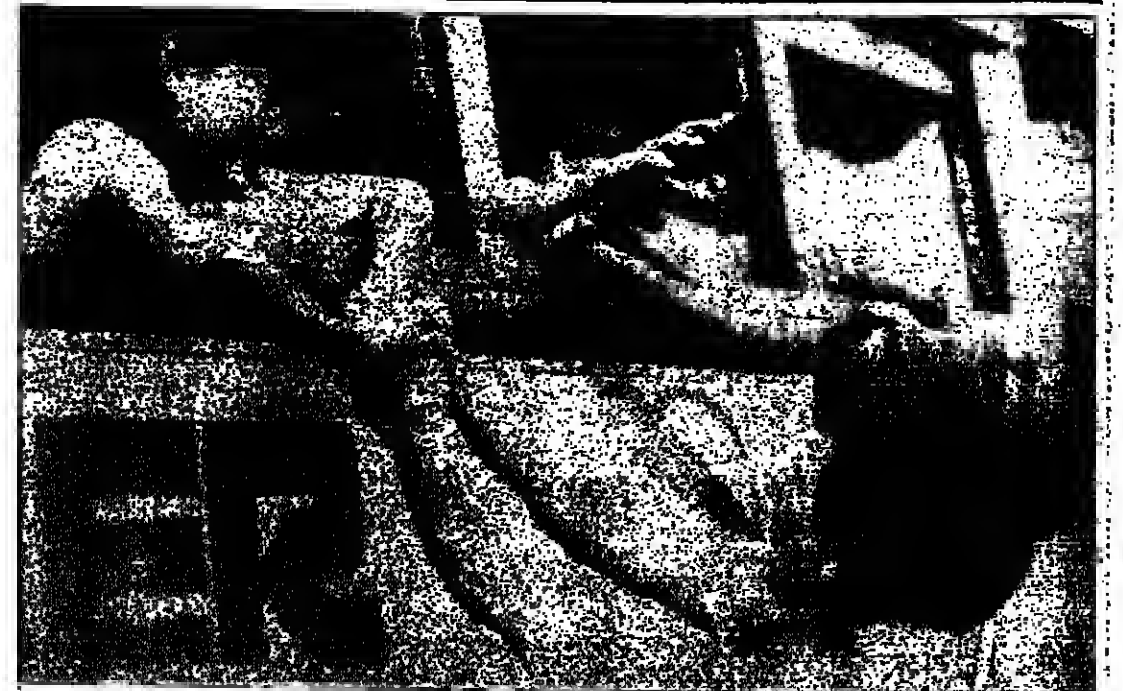
A government helicopter gunship was damaged by rebel fire in Mankulam town in northern Jaffna peninsula late yesterday, officials said. The helicopter was on a mission to airlift supplies to 150 government soldiers trapped

higher education and economic development aid.

Witnesses said the drowning occurred about 8 am when three rebels drove onto a bridge over the Jhelum river, one of the main rivers flowing into Lake Dal, in an auto rickshaw.

The rebels dragged the suspected police informer, his hands tied behind his back, from the three-wheeled vehicle and shoved him into the river.

The man fell about 30 feet (10 m) into the waterway. Then the rebels fired their weapons into the air to attract attention and sped away in the auto rickshaw, the witnesses said.



Gratitude

Vietnamese refugees Hua My Hoa clutches the hands of Canadian ship officer Paul Lefort as she tearfully thanks him while the bus leaves Manila harbour for a Philippine refugee centre. Manila finally allowed 88 Indochinese refugees to disembark from Canadian ship Provider after Canada agreed to take them before the end of 1992. (Reuters wirephoto)

for 12 days in the strategic Jaffna fort by a rebel siege.

Yesterday, helicopter gunships broke through the siege, dropping tons of fish and bags of rice and lentils to trapped soldiers.

Today, the fort, located in the rebel stronghold, was again attacked from three sides by rebel forces.

The loss of the fort would deprive the Sri Lankan government of a foothold in Tiger

territory.

An airman was killed and six soldiers injured when troops tried to reach another besieged military camp at Mylady also on Jaffna peninsula, officials said.

A 13-month-old ceasefire collapsed in bloodshed June 11

after a Tamil civilian complained he was manhandled by Sinhalese police.

The government says Tamil separatists have gunned down 278 unarmed police officers, kidnapped during attacks on police stations.

Bingo Day 3

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AT

UK expert claims discovering King Arthur's burial site

LONDON, June 23. (UPI) King Arthur, the 6th century monarch who sent his knights on a quest to find the Holy Grail, was buried in a hill near the Scottish border, said a Scottish expert yesterday.

Harold Brooks-Baker, spokesman of the organisation which charts the genealogy of the world's aristocrats, said the discovery had been made by Prof. Norma Goodrich.

The historian who has written four books about King Arthur located the burial site by studying old French and Scottish manuscripts on the real estate holdings of ancient

families, he said.

"The veil of mystery on Arthurian legend is at last slowly being lifted — the discovery of the burial place of Britain's most famous monarch will definitely create a new editing task for all the history books of this island," Brooks-Baker said. "Clearly, history must be re-written."

The claim conflicts with the more widespread belief that Arthur came to rest in Glastonbury, in the southwestern region of Somerset. This is attributed to the medieval scholar Ralph of Coggeshall, who said in his chronicle anglicanum that Arthur's body was discovered on the site in 1191.

But Goodrich, an authority on King Arthur who does research for Burke's Peerage, believes the monarch was interred in what is now known as the Parish of Arthur, close to a town called Longtown and near the Scottish border.

Merlin
The area of forest and rolling hills would have been part of Scotland during the 6th century and is north of Hadrian's Wall, built by the Romans to keep out the rebellious Picts. It is near Arddergel battlefield, where Christian and pagan forces fought in clashes reputedly witnessed by the Wizard, Merlin. Arthur means Arthur's head, and the

burial site rises above the head of the Solway Firth. Goodrich, in a book soon to be published on the subject, says that Arthur, in keeping with tradition, would have been buried with his head pointing north, in the direction of his foes.

Near the site is the church of St Michael and All Angels, which was erected in the year 1150 over another church listed in ancient records as being consecrated ground.

Rotunda
Burke's Peerage also through Goodrich reported in October 1988 that it had found the location of Arthur's castle, Camelot, on the Ayrshire coast. It also said in February 1989 that Goodrich had located the round table, which was in fact a wood rotunda.

There are still a large number of people who think that Glastonbury was where Arthur reigned, Brooks-Baker said. "All evidence is circumstantial, but the other scholars have not used French manuscripts. Still, you would not have an interesting story without controversy."

The Christian monarch died in 542, but remains shrouded in mystery.

Historians mostly agree that he did exist, but are divided on the veracity of the legendary exploits of the Knights of the Round Table, the quest for the Holy Grail, and the relationship between Sir Lancelot and Queen Guinevere.

One of the chief historical sources was Geoffrey of Monmouth, the 12th century author of Historia Regum Britanniae.

Historians hold that Arthur was a chieftain of mixed Roman and British parentage, who learned the art of war from the Romans and successfully led the British kings against Saxon invaders mostly based in Kent.

And some legends state that when he died, he was escorted by three queens to the land of Avalon.

Fire guts sheikh's house in London

LONDON, June 23. (AP) Fire gutted part of an oil sheikh's 18th century mansion outside London yesterday, causing damage estimated at £50 million (\$66 million), a fire official said.

A multimillion-pound fortune in art and antiques was destroyed, said Tony Baker, deputy fire chief for Buckinghamshire County.

Police said no one was injured, but could not say whether Sheikh Mohammed Al Tajir, one of the world's richest men, was home at the time of the fire.

The blaze that sent flames 30 feet (10 metres) into the air, raged through the east wing of Dropmore House in Burnham, Buckinghamshire, 20 miles (32 kilometres) west of central London.

More than 100 firefighters battled the blaze, some using water from the indoor swimming pool.

Baker said damage to the mansion and contents could exceed £50 million (\$66 million).

The East wing had suffered "substantial damage," he said.

"We managed to save the other half of the house and we are trying to salvage what we can."

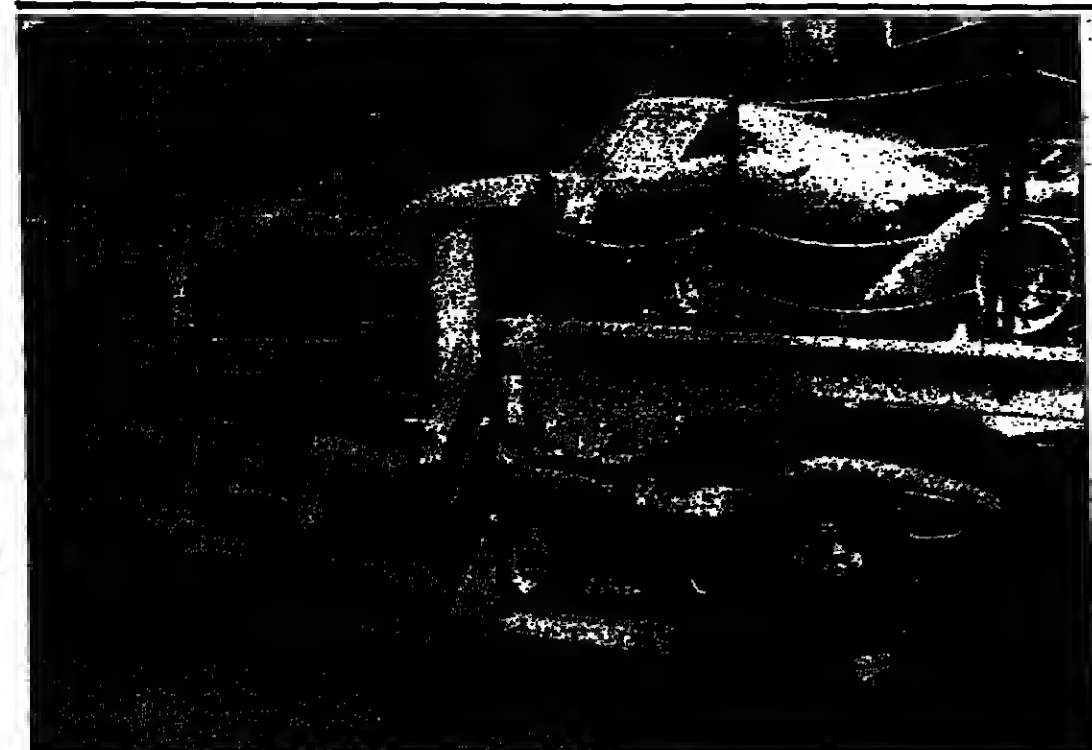
"The house has 50 rooms with a lot of them full of very expensive antiques. Paintings, antique furniture and antique ivory are among the items lost."

Simoo Elliott, a forester working on the 195-acre (78-hectare) estate, said: "The flames were about 30 feet (10 metres) high. They were licking through the roof. The walls and ceilings collapsed, everything has gone. The wing was totally devastated."

The £12 million (\$20.7 million) Dropmore House is one of 30 homes owned by the sheikh, a former United Arab Emirates ambassador to London.

In January, an armed gang stole treasures worth \$5 million (pounds \$8.65 million) from the house after holding the caretaker and his wife captive for 10 hours.

Four years ago the sheikh paid a £2 million (\$3.46 million) ransom to a kidnapper who snatched his younger brother Sadiq at gunpoint from his London home.



Rossem cars impounded

Sports cars belonging to Belgium's Jean-Pierre van Rossem, a flamboyant money manager and former Formula One Team owner who said earlier this week he was almost bankrupt, his six Ferraris, a Lamborghini and a Ford Cobra were impounded on orders from the public prosecutor in Antwerp. (Reuter wirephoto)

Babylonian temple in Iraq

Key to medical history

CHICAGO, June 23. (AP) University of Chicago archaeologists say the discovery of a huge 4,000-year-old Babylonian temple in southern Iraq may shed new light on the origins of medicine.

The temple, in the ancient desert city of Nippur, on the Euphrates river southwest of Baghdad, is as large as a football field and about 30 feet (six metres) high. "This temple could tell us more about ancient medicine than we've ever known before," said University of Chicago Professor McGuire Gibson, leader of the team that began uncovering remains of the temple three months ago.

The temple, believed to honour Gula, the goddess of

healing, has a treasure trove of figurines, tablets and artifacts that describe maladies and ancient treatments for them, scientists say.

"Our figurine shows a man clutching his throat; another shows a man holding his stomach," said Robert Biggs, professor of Assyriology at the University of Chicago, which announced the discovery Tuesday. "They're obviously showing Gula where it hurts."

The figurines were offered as sacrifices to the goddess in hopes she would cure their maladies, he said.

"We know from inscribed clay tablets that the ancient Mesopotamians used figurines in their rituals," Gibson said. "But we don't know much about their use in healing."

WADSWORTH, Ohio: Contestants gathered in this small central US town were holding their breaths to see whether the world record for tossing a toilet will be broken at the second annual Great Wadsworth Ohio Toilet Toss today.

The local plumber ran out of the porcelain fixtures to meet the demands of 200 contestants, some as far away as Australia, who were preparing for the finale of the four-day event.

"You just can't find one anywhere. Everyone's practicing," Eugene Kosack, 56, told Reuters. (Reuter)

COPENHAGEN: Buy a Danish inter-rail ticket and you get two free condoms and a leaflet telling you how to take precautions against Aids as you travel around Europe.

"We're co-operating with the health ministry's Aids secretary on this," Danish State Railways (DSB) marketing assistant Carsten Volckers said on Friday.

"With each inter-rail ticket you get a small wallet with two condoms and a leaflet with travel advice and precautions against Aids." (Reuter)

SACRAMENTO, California: The city of Sacramento, which has a female mayor, decided the term "manhole" was sexist and had adopted the term "manitanceance hole" as an alternative.

The city council will use the new, neutral term on official maps and documents after adopting it this week.

Public works officials originally proposed the search for a non-sexist term for "manhole" in jest, but Mayor Anne Rice liked the idea. (Reuter)

BUESUM, West Germany: Fritz the sea monster, which has a home in the North Sea on Friday after being trapped in a West German harbour for more than five days.

"We are glad he finally found the right direction," said Peter Paeckel of the Greenpeace environmentalist group which helped Fritz back to the open sea to the straits of Chesapeake and Virginia.

The 33-foot (10-metre) whale, became separated from his fellows on Saturday and swam into the northern port of Buesum, where he was hindering shipping. (Reuter)

ARLINGTON, Texas: Pilot who ran into trouble in midair but had no radio in his small plane used a styrofoam cup to get help on the ground.

Steve Smith, 29, was flying a single-engine airplane from Louisville, Kentucky, to Arlington Thursday when he noticed a malfunction.

One of the plane's warning lights would not shut off and an alarm informed him the plane's nose gear was not locked. Smith knew that without a locked nose wheel, the nose gear will collapse on landing.

To make matters worse, his radio microphone was not working. The Abilene man said he could hear but could not transmit. A backup microphone also would not work.

Smith circled in his plane south of Arlington trying to decide his next move. He finally flew to his intended destination, the Van Bortel aircraft building at Arlington municipal airport, hoping to attract someone's attention.

With the plane on automatic pilot, Smith scribbled a note explaining his predicament on a plastic foam cup and dropped it out the window. A worker at the aircraft company picked up the cup.

Employees later told Smith his nose gear looked fine and to go ahead and try landing.

NEW YORK: High Southern resigned unexpectedly Friday as general manager of the Metropolitan Opera less than eight months after assuming the post, saying, "I have not found fulfillment." (UPI)

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island: Disciples of fantasy-horror writer H.P. Lovecraft are campaigning to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth with a hometown monument to the man who inspired a generation of spinners of creepy tales. (AP)

COPENHAGEN: Two Danish biologists, Mette Bohn Christensen and Elin Pitter, have won a 250,000 crown (\$40,000) prize from the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) for their efforts to protect the world's largest parrot, the South American hyacinth macaw.

The rare macaw, with cobalt blue plumage and yellow eyes and face stripes, measures up to one metre from head to tail and lives in the Amazon rain forest and southern Brazil. (Reuter)

British Sotheby's to auction title

LONDON, June 23. (AP) Shakespeare fans with ready cash and a taste for grandeur will have a chance to buy a piece of history when the title of lord of the manor, Stratford-Upon-Avon, is auctioned at Sotheby's July 19.

The title, which dates from the end of the seventh century, is Britain's most expensive, having two years ago for \$7,000 pounds (\$10,000).

It will be part of a sale of English literature, history books and manuscripts at Sotheby's auction house in London, the company announced in a sale catalogue.

Lords of the manor are the oldest titles in England, pre-dating the Norman conquest of 1066, but their significance is largely symbolic today and they carry no rights to land, houses or a seat in the House of Lords.

The owner does not become a lord, but can write lord of the manor of Stratford-Upon-Avon after his or her name.

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-Upon-Avon in 1564, spent much of his life there, and was buried in 1616.

Hoverspeed breaks record

LONDON, June 23. (Reuter) A British catamaran ferry claimed the record for the fastest Atlantic crossing by a passenger vessel today, knocking almost three hours off a time which had stood for 38 years, a spokesman for the organisers said.

The Hoverspeed Great Britain, the world's largest car-carrying catamaran, crossed the finishing line off Britain's Scilly Isles at 8.25 am (0725 GMT), after taking three days seven hours 55 minutes to complete the 3,000-mile journey.

"We are elated, over the moon," Captain John Lloyd, 44, said.

The catamaran, owned by British company Hoverspeed and with a crew of 10, was trying to

capture the Hales Trophy for the Blue Riband — the fastest Atlantic crossing by a passenger vessel — last won by the liner United States in 1952.

The United States took three days, 10 hours and 40 minutes to complete the crossing.

There may be legal wrangles over whether the catamaran will in fact win the ornate four-foot (one metre) high globe-shaped trophy, which was introduced in 1934 and is awarded only to passenger ships.

Hoverspeed project spokesman Lynn Harvey said the Hales trust accepted the catamaran's challenge a year ago.

Soering found guilty of deaths

Sentence at later date

BEDFORD, Virginia, June 23. (UPI) Jens Soering, the son of a West German diplomat, was found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder in the slaying deaths of his girlfriend's parents.

Soering, 23, remained impassive as the six-man, six-woman jury announced Thursday evening it had found him guilty and recommended the former University of Virginia law school student be sentenced to a pair of life prison terms.

The youthful-looking, bespectacled defendant then spoke only at the request of the judge, maintaining he was blameless in the brutal slayings of Derek and Nancy Hayson.

"I am innocent," he replied, after circuit judge William Sweeney asked him if he wished to make a statement.

The jury deliberated just under four hours before finding Soering guilty of slaying to death the couple because they frowned on his relationship with their daughter. The verdicts ended a 2-1/2 week trial.

Prosecutor James Updike wrapped up his case by saying Soering hacked and slashed the couple to death in a bloody

frenzy at their home, and then returned to the scene to methodically erase the evidence.

The retired International Steel executive and his wife, a distant relative of Eoglaod's Lady Astor, were stabbed more than four dozen times to the March 30, 1985, attack. Their throats were cut so severely they were nearly decapitated, investigators said.

Soering contended his ex-girlfriend, Elizabeth Hayson, murdered her parents.

Hayson, the prosecution's star witness, admitted in 1988 that she manipulated Soering into killing the couple so she could be free of them and is serving a 90-year prison sentence.

Defence attorney Richard Neatoo referred to Hayson's testimony as "the word of a pathological liar."

"He was trapped in the web Elizabeth Hayson had begun to spin around him," Neatoo said of his client.

Hayson, who pleaded guilty to being an accessory to the crimes, testified that she and Soering, University of Virginia honour students at the time, travelled to Washington the week of the murders.

Tycoon Trump sells Dutch shipyard

AMSTERDAM, June 23. (Reuter) American businessman Donald Trump has sold the Dutch shipyard where his luxury 400 million guilder (\$210 million) yacht was being built.

"Trump sold the yard last week," Andries Bosma, financial controller for the shipbuilders Amels Holland BV, said today. He refused to reveal details.

The 128-metre (420-foot) yacht Trump Princess II was being built in the boatyard in the southern Dutch fishing village of Makkum, but earlier this month Trump ordered work on it to stop.

Trump will tell us next week if he is to restart work on the yacht. But in any case we have plenty of other work to keep our 34 workers employed. Association with the Trump name has been favourable for our order book," Bosma said. "I don't know if Trump wants to continue the project, but you can read in every newspaper that he is in serious trouble."

In New York, Trump broke his silence about his financial plight yesterday to voice confidence he will survive, implicitly urging a group of foreign banks to approve a critical bailout plan.

Trump, scrambling for weeks to restructure \$2 billion in bank debt in order to keep up interest and principal payments on another \$1.3 billion in publicly traded bonds, said more than his personal fortune is at stake.

In a one-page statement released in his name by the Trump organization, his holding company, he argued that thousands of employees and suppliers of his real estate, hotel and casino holdings would also suffer if he went under.

Trump must pay nearly \$43 million in overdue interest and principal on bond issues for his Trump Castle Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey, by midnight Tuesday, or his creditors can move to foreclose on it. That could send a line of financial dominoes toppling, ending in bankruptcy.

whatever the court sees fit."

Harrell, 46, a former real estate agent, claimed she siphoned off millions from the sale of government-owned houses and gave most of it to charity. She has acknowledged stealing \$5.7 million and pleaded guilty in January to stealing government property and filing a false tax return.

Murray also sentenced Harrell to serve three years' probation, 624 hours of community service and \$600,000 in restitution for the embezzlement charge.

Tumour removal better

WASHINGTON, June 23. (Kuoia) A panel of American health experts agreed here today that tumour removal combined with radiation therapy is just as effective in treating early breast cancer as removing the entire breast.

The panel convened by the National Institutes of Health added that further treatment of early-stage breast cancer with chemotherapy on the drug tamoxifen decreases the change of a recurrence by one-third, whether the cancer has spread to the lymph nodes or not.

The experts agreed that removing only the tumour in cases of early breast cancer "is preferable" to total mastectomy (removing the entire breast) because it leaves the breast intact.

Court sends woman to jail for federal thefts

BALTIMORE, June 23. (AP) A woman who claimed she stole millions of dollars from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to help the poor was sentenced yesterday to nearly four years in prison and ordered to return \$110,000 to the government.

US Attorney General Dick Thornburgh has called the case the largest theft of federal funds by an individual.

Federal sentencing guidelines called for a sentence of 30 to 37 months, but US district

judge Herbert Murray agreed to a prosecution recommendation to increase the sentence of Marilyn Harrell to 46 months for aggravating factors.

Harrell's attorney had asked for a sentence of 16 months, half to be served in a halfway house or some other community-based programme.

"I have never said what I did was right," Harrell said in court. "In fact, if a person steals five cents, then they should be done with

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Missile or bomb—Italy jet crash remains a mystery

ROME, June 23. (AP): Ten years after a Sicilian-bound jet blew apart in twilight skies and fell into the sea, killing 81 people, key questions remain unanswered.

Did a terrorist plant a bomb or did a missile go astray in an aerial dogfight, was there a bungled investigation or an international coverup?

Many theories have been advanced, but little information has been revealed. A complicating factor is judicial secrecy, which forbids disclosure until the investigation leads to

indictments or closure of the case.

In May, an official panel of five experts who said in March 1989 that a missile had struck the plane re-examined the evidence and split between missile and bomb.

Premier Giulio Andreotti declared recently: "The more I read about it, the less I understand. It's very disturbing, this interweaving of suspicions and rumours."

A week earlier, a state television report claimed authorities ignored or forgot radar data from a station in Tuscany. The report

interpreted the data as indicating the DC-9, bound for Sicily, was caught in an engagement between French and Libyan jet fighters, but gave no proof.

It joined a multitude of sensational, unsubstantiated theories that have arisen over the years.

Some contended a Libyan aircraft with Col Moammar Khaddafi aboard was above Sicily shortly before the crash.

One spoke of Khaddafi's favourite air force pilot chasing a defector across the skies—in

another, US jets fired a missile that hit the airliner by mistake.

French, US and Nato officials have denied any military activity in the skies that night. Khaddafi has blamed the United States, but offered no evidence.

Discovery of a crashed Libyan MiG fighter in the Calabrian mountains, almost due west of where the DC-9 went down, bolstered claims of a Libyan connection.

Doctors who performed an autopsy on the pilot first gave the date of death as July 18,

then June, then switched back to the later date.

Investigators suspect air force officials of manipulating, hiding or destroying evidence and of lying about what happened that Friday when, 57 minutes into the flight and without a hint of trouble, the plane disappeared from radar screens while flying from Bologna to Palermo.

The DC-9 of Itavia, a small private carrier, carried 77 passengers, including 11 children

and two infants, and a crew of four. School vacations had begun and many passengers were businessmen joining their families for the weekend.

Italy was plagued by terrorism in 1980 and a bomb first seemed the likely cause. A few months after the crash, however, Transport Minister Rino Formica told Parliament a missile was suspected.

In 1987, the government yielded to the outcries of relatives and engaged salvagers, who raised part of the wreckage.

'Sad day for Canada' Glimmer of hope

Provinces fail to ratify Meech Lake accord

MONTREAL, June 23. (AP): Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was trying today to pick up the pieces after the failure of a constitutional amendment that would have accorded special status to French-speaking Quebec.

By Friday, two of Canada's 10 provinces had failed to ratify the Meech Lake accord, and it was impossible that today's deadline would be met. Quebec's conditions for signing the optional constitution were spelled out in the accord.

Many observers blamed Mulroney for having waited until the last minute to work out a final agreement.

"It's a sad day for Canada," Mulroney said yesterday after his top constitutional adviser had declared the constitutional amendment dead. "This was all about Canada."

But while Quebec officials made no attempt to hide their displeasure, they made no immediate threats to secession by their province, which has twice the land area of Texas.

Some Canadians feared that the failure of Meech Lake would lead to Quebec's secession from Canada—a move that would have serious political and economic consequences for Quebec and Canada as a whole.

In a 1980 referendum, Quebecois rejected a proposal to open talks with the federal government on a plan allowing Quebec political autonomy.

The 1987 Meech Lake agreement, named after the government retreat near Ottawa where it was originally worked out, needed the ratification of the federal parliament and the legislatures of all 10 provinces by midnight Saturday.

By this week, Newfoundland and Manitoba still had not ratified the agreement. It died yesterday when Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells decided to adjourn debate on the issue indefinitely.

Delays

Wells' move scuttled a desperate last-minute federal plan to have the supreme court extend the time available to the Manitoba legislature, where Cree Indian legislator Elijah Harper buried the agreement under a barrage of procedural delays.

Harper, a Cree backed by many of Canada's other Indian leaders, believes the country's native people are every bit as "distinct" as residents of Quebec.

Because Manitoba's problem was strictly a need for more time for procedural reasons, the federal government came up with a complicated scheme to get the time extended.

When Newfoundland put off the vote, though, the federal move for Manitoba question became moot and Sen. Lowell Murray, Mulroney's chief constitutional adviser, declared Meech Lake dead.

Many in English Canada feared that the agreement would have given Quebec extra powers. But constitutional experts such as John Whyte, dean of Queens University law school, said the "distinct society" clause would have had few practical effects.

Under it, the Canadian supreme court would have been given a guideline to take Quebec's special character into consideration when ruling on challenges to laws under the constitution.

Other provisions of Meech concerned nominations to the supreme court, allowing provinces to opt out of some federal-provincial spending programmes, a new constitutional amending formula, and provincial say in immigration matters.

Some Quebec residents considered the accord's death a slap at their French character.

"They have showed us we have no place in Canada," said a grey-haired woman drinking coffee in a Montreal cafe. "That's why I'm so sad."

Leader

Canada's Liberal Party, which governed the country for most of the last half-century before being ousted in 1984 by the Progressive Conservatives, today chooses a new leader it hopes will return the party to power in the next general election.

The expected election of Jean Chretien, a native Quebecer and senior cabinet minister in the former Liberal administration of Pierre Trudeau, is also expected to return the party to an American-style of liberalism favoured by Trudeau.

Recent polls of the 5,200 delegates registered to attend the Liberal convention in Calgary, Alberta, gave Chretien 62 per cent of support, well ahead of his nearest rivals, Paul Martin, a wealthy Quebec businessman and Sheila Copps, a veteran member of parliament.

The agreement, which would have declared Quebec to be a "distinct society," had strong symbolic significance in the province—Canada's largest, with one-fourth of the country's 26 million people.

Reflection

Most experts believed there would be a period of reflection before Quebec's provincial government decided how to respond. But Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa, informing his legislature of the death of the accord, indicated the prevailing sentiment in the province. "English Canada must clearly understand... that Quebec today and forever is a distinct society, capable of its own development and its own destiny," he said.



The Parti Quebecois leader Jacques Parizeau shown above said at a press conference the Meech Lake accord is dead now. (Reuter wirephoto)

'No secession soon' Meech accord declared dead

MONTREAL, June 23. (AP): The failure of an accord meant to bring Quebec into Canada's constitution will be strongly resented in the French-speaking province, but an immediate march toward independence is unlikely.

The proposed agreement would have met Quebec's principal conditions for signing Canada's 1982 constitution. The most important and most symbolic of its provisions was a clause calling Quebec a "distinct society."

The "distinct society" clause had no immediate practical impact on the province or its people. It served mainly to soothe bruised Quebecois feelings.

The clause was also a guideline for the Canadian Supreme Court, requiring it to take the province's special situation into account when ruling on challenges to laws affecting Quebec.

But the 1987 agreement was declared dead yesterday after two of Canada's 10 provinces still had not approved the accord. Today's deadline was impossible to meet without action yesterday.

"It's a sad day for Canada," Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said after the death of the accord.

A widened political debate in the province seemed certain. An eventual referendum on either independence, or more likely some sort of sovereignty-association with Canada, is possible. Quebec now is governed by the national constitution, though it has not signed the document.

During the long debate, Quebec officials were careful not to make any threats of secession or other future action during the long debate. They refused even to acknowledge that any contingency plan was in the works should the accord fail.

Quebecois voters rejected a 1980 referendum that proposed talks with the federal government on political autonomy for their province.

The Meech Lake Accord gave all provinces, not just Quebec, the right to opt out of some federal-provincial spending programmes. It gave provinces more say in immigration—particularly important in Quebec, where French-speaking immigrants are desirable. It also covered nominations to the Supreme Court and a new constitutional amending formula.

The accord died because opposition prevented ratification in the provinces of Manitoba and Newfoundland.

In Manitoba, a Cree Indian leader who is a member of the provincial legislature threw up procedural obstacles to attempts to push through approval. He forced adjournment of the legislature until Monday. Elijah Harper, a Cree backed by many of Canada's other Indian leaders, believes the country's native people are every bit as "distinct" as residents of Quebec.

In Newfoundland, Premier Clyde Wells, hearing the news from Manitoba, postponed a vote on Meech Lake indefinitely.

The debate had occupied the headlines for the past several months, and with increasing intensity for the past several weeks.

Some Quebecois with nationalist or separatist feelings were happy, believing the rejection of the accord would be a step toward independence. Others were bitter.

"Try to sit with us the next time and see what our basic demands are," said Serge Dube, a power company executive. "The bare minimum was asked, and they trampled on our flag."

London warns of gags on press

LONDON, June 23. (AP): The government on Friday warned British newspapers that a 12-month deadline to stop invasions of privacy or face tough new controls is their "last chance" to discipline themselves.

"We will not flinch from introducing statutory regulation of the press," Home Secretary David Waddington said, writing in the Times of London.

"We all hope that it will not come to this. But it is up to the industry—proprietors, editors and journalists—to realize this hope, for no one else can."

Britain's racy tabloids, the prime target of the ultimatum, conjured up a dire vision of their journalists being jailed for going on a favourite assignment—dogging royalty—if the government goes ahead with threat.

The journalists' union and editors' organizations also protested that the move threatened press freedom, while highbrow newspapers accused the tabloids of bringing trouble on them all.

But amid the protests and finger-pointing, there was also useful acknowledgment that the fiercely competitive popular newspapers go too far.

In recent years, incidents have included a reporter posing as a doctor to get medical records of a dying TV personality to see if the man had AIDS.

Last January, a reporter and photographer for a free-wheeling weekly, Sunday Sport, barged into an intensive care ward to interview an actor suffering from brain damage.

The ultimatum culminated years of complaints about the sexy, kiss-and-tell tabloids, purchased interviews, and foot-in-the-door pursuits of pop stars, royalty, politicians, criminals or little-known people suddenly in the limelight.

In an announcement in Parliament on Thursday, the government said it will establish a state-funded press tribunal headed by a judge or senior lawyer unless the press sets up a new, voluntary watchdog body within 12 months.

If newspapers flout an 18-point code of ethics to be administered by the voluntary body, the newspaper complaints commission, or it proves generally ineffective after six months, the tougher press tribunal will be appointed.

The tribunal, headed by a judge or senior lawyer, would have powers to stop publication of offending articles and force newspapers to pay compensation to people whose privacy has been violated, the government said.

Aids vaccine on the horizon

SAN FRANCISCO, June 23. (Reuter): Scientists offered a glimmer of hope in the decade-old fight against Aids, telling the sixth international Aids conference that a vaccine against the fatal disease might be on the horizon.

"In the past year or so, we've cracked open the door to the optimism for a vaccine," Dr Wayne Koff, head of the Aids vaccine development programme for the US National Institute of Health, told reporters.

"I think in the next two or three years we will knock it down."

Dr Jonas Salk, the father of the polio vaccine, said earlier yesterday that he would soon begin large-scale trials of his experimental Aids (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) vaccine.

He said he thought the vaccine might also give some therapeutic benefit to people infected with the disease.



Stinson watches a monitor as he listens to Aids information at the conference on Aids in San Francisco June 22. (Reuter wirephoto)



Dr Jonas Salk gestures during a panel discussion on Aids June 22. (Reuter wirephoto)

Glimpses of Barry's style

Star witness reveals

WASHINGTON, June 23. (Reuter): From the saloons of Caribbean pleasure boats to a hotel bathroom in the US capital, a cocaine trial is giving titillating glimpses of the alleged high life of Washington Mayor Mario Barry.

The best tales have been told by Charles Lewis, a former friend of Barry who now is the star prosecution witness in a trial that heard its first evidence this week.

Fresh from 15 months in prison on two drug conspiracy convictions—both involving the Washington mayor—Lewis has a seemingly encyclopaedic memory for the grape notes of Barry's flamboyant style.

The popular black mayor of the US capital is on trial on 14 drug-related charges for allegedly using cocaine over a five-year period and lying about it to a grand jury.

Conviction on all counts could mean up to 26 years in prison and \$1.85 million in fines.

His lawyers contend he only smoked crack cocaine once—and was entrapped into doing that.

They also claim Barry is a victim of the predominantly white power elite in Washington.

Lewis has other recollections. He recalled a lavish hotel suite Barry occupied at the Frenchman's Reef Hotel in the Virgin Islands, and cruises Barry and his

companions took on pleasure craft exotically named 'Oceans of Fantasy' and 'Brigadoon'.

The lawyers were interested in bringing out the crucial testimony that Lewis saw Barry use cocaine in all these locations, but Lewis remembered more.

On one Virgin Islands trip, Lewis said the married mayor brought along Hazel "Rasheeda" Moore—the woman who later helped drug enforcement authorities arrest Barry in a "sting" operation in January 1990 at a Washington hotel.

"Miss Moore took out a small package—a straw," Lewis testified, referring to a straw filled with powdered cocaine.

"She was giving it to me (to inhale) but I told her to feed it to me. I took a hit," the mayor asked if it was good stuff. I said, "Miss Moore, super... the mayor and Miss Moore also used cocaine. I don't know how many hits they took."

Barry and Moore used cocaine on day-trips aboard the Brigadoon and Oceans of Fantasy, Lewis said. The sea-going party continued on land, where all stopped for a local soup and Spanish brandy, Lewis said.

There were other diversions, Lewis remembered. "He (Barry) was being playful with the two ladies that were there," Lewis said of one boat trip.

"At the moment, we're further ahead in treatment than in prevention," said Salk, who has been testing a vaccine, first on chimpanzees and then on other animals, for several years.

He said he would report later this year on the results of tests on chimpanzees which were given doses of his vaccine nearly two years ago.

Dr Alexandra Levin, a colleague, said the US Food and Drug Administration had authorised Salk's research team to start testing of his vaccine on 600 to 700 infected but symptomless people. The tests were expected to begin soon.

Salk has said that his vaccine appears to build up resistance to infection in chimpanzees and to wipe out all traces of the Aids virus in infected animals.

The 12,000 Aids researchers, doctors and community workers attending the conference held their last full day of scientific presentations today.

Some delegates planned to join a march organised by local groups which are dedicated to homosexual rights and provide help for people stricken with Aids.

Demonstrators, seeking more government medical help and faster work on the development of drugs, have staged mostly peaceful protests in the streets since the conference opened on Wednesday.

About 300 people have been arrested on minor charges during carefully planned sit-downs to block traffic. But there have been almost none of the noisy protests by Aids activists which characterised last year's conference held in Montreal.

A San Francisco community research group also reported improvement in Aids patients given a drug called compound Q derived from a Chinese herb.

Before being given the drug, the patients suffered a steady decline in immune system cells called CD4 cells. After administration of the drug 38 of the patients showed either a stabilisation of CD4 cells or an increase, said the study's director, Martin Delaney.

■ One of the most prominent Aids researchers in the world says he is no longer convinced that Aids is caused by (HIV) virus alone but by a microbe or a virus working together.

In an unusual three-hour session Wednesday night at the sixth international conference on Aids underway in San Francisco, Luc Montagnier, the French discoverer of HIV, presented data showing that people infected by HIV develop AIDS quickly if they are also infected with what he described as mycoplasma microbe.

Those who do not have HIV mycoplasma may live with HIV infection for many years, he said (Kuna).

■ Experts agreed yesterday there were signs the Aids epidemic was levelling off. Some key population groups had disagreed over whether to create educational efforts, the Aids drug AZT or a statistical glitch.

Researchers at the sixth international Aids conference acknowledged the incidence of Aids still climbing among heterosexuals, infants and adolescents.

Spain Socialist face poll test

SEVILLE, Spain, June 23. (Reuter): Spain's ruling Socialist faced the first major test today since October general elections, with five million people in Andalusia, the country's largest region, eligible to elect a government.

Candidates feared a low turnout with voters tempted by beaches and World Cup soccer on television. Opinion polls predicted the Socialist would win a third consecutive four-year term.

"I hope the abstainers will not be the winners in this election," Gabino Puche, candidate for regional presidency of the conservative Popular Party (PP), said.

LANCILLA

Beijing to sign ozone protocol

LONDON, June 23, (Reuters): The head of the Chinese delegation to a world environmental conference said on Friday his country is close to signing an international protocol to protect the ozone.

"We think it won't be too long before China finally joins the protocol," Wang Yang Zu, the deputy administrator of China's Environmental Protection Agency, told a news conference through an interpreter.

Wang said China will refuse to sign unless the United States backs down from its bid to control a fund designed to speed up the timetable for phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) in the Third World.

The United States wants nations controlling the fund to have their vote weighed according to their contribution.

Since the US would make the largest contribution, it would therefore have the largest vote.

The US proposal "has been met with much opposition from many delegates, including those representing the developed nations," Wang said.

"The US conditions will never be included in the amendments to the protocol," he said.

Mahesh Prasad, India's environment minister, said his government also would not sign the protocol if the United States sticks to its current position.

"We would not be willing to accept an unequal and unjustifiable sacrifice," he told Reuters. "There is no reason for (the United States) to draw this red herring."

Prasad said all of the 77 members of a Third World coalition on the environment are in agreement on this point. China and India, the world's two most populous nations, are the most glaring absences from a 1987 agreement signed by 56 nations in Montreal to phase out CFCs.

The United Nations has called the London conference as a sequel to the Montreal meeting. Current agreement calls for CFC production to be cut in half by 1999, but the UN, the European Economic Community and other Western nations have proposed an outright ban by the year 2000.

The meeting will also vote on an amendment to start an international fund of at least \$160 million, with \$40 million added if China signs and another 40 million if India comes on board.

Several delegates said privately they fear the entire conference will end in failure if the United States does not soften its stance, because the undeveloped nations could block the two-thirds majority needed to approve any amendment.

Australian and French scientists issued a joint call Thursday for a new scientific observatory in the Southern Hemisphere, a move which could uncover a vital missing link in the ozone layer debate.

The call by the 30 environmental scientists came after release of figures which show that damage to the ozone layer in Australia's region could be worse than previously thought.

Purged Zhao Ziyang remains a missing man

BEIJING, June 23, (AP): The steel red double doors of No. 6 Fugiang Lane are closed tight, and knots of police eye the curious people who pass by the reported home of China's most famous political prisoner, former Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang.

"I can't talk here," said one Chinese woman glancing nervously at the walled compound where Zhao and his family are said to reside.

The tree-lined lane is similar to the thousands of narrow, picturesque alleyways that make up the heart of old Beijing. But the entrance to Fugiang,

several blocks east of the forbidden city, is guarded by plainclothes police. An armed policeman stands in the middle of the lane, and more police huddle at the end of the block.

It has been one year since the Communist Party Central Committee met on June 24 to purge the pro-reform Zhao of all his party posts, accusing him of "splitting the party" and "supporting the turmoil." Shanghai bureaucrat Jiang Zemin, a political hardliner, was named the new party general secretary.

The "turmoil" referred to the

student-led pro-democracy movement that the military brutality crushed three weeks earlier. On June 4, Zhao opposed the military intervention, but was overruled by Premier Li Peng and other conservatives who used the dispute to drive Zhao and his supporters from power.

Zhao's last public appearance was on May 19, 1989, when he had a tearful meeting with student hunger strikers on Tiananmen Square. The next day, Li Peng declared martial law in Beijing. Zhao has not been seen since. His only known contact with the outside

world came recently when former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt said Zhao responded to a personal letter.

In the weeks after his purge, Zhao was maligned in the official press as a man who had "vilified and repudiated the fine traditions" of the Communist Party. Party leaders hinted strongly that Zhao would face criminal charges for supporting the democracy movement, or "counter-revolutionary rebellion." Members of his family were also said to be under investigation.

Zhao, now 70, may have avoided a

trial so far because he has long been a favourite of senior leader Deng Xiaoping. For nearly a decade — first as premier and then as party boss — Zhao was a chief proponent of Deng's market-oriented reforms that brought new levels of prosperity to the Chinese people.

The conservatives may be treading cautiously because party reformists, while in retreat the past year, are still a popular and formidable force, particularly in areas of the country that have benefited from the reforms.

"Zhao may have made some mis-

takes," Guo Shuyan, governor of the central province of Hubei said in a recent interview, "but we shouldn't blame him for everything."

A government official Saturday sharply criticised China for sending a popular singer known for his outspokenness back to his native Taiwan.

Mn Ying-Jeu, executive secretary of the Nationalist government's mainland affairs council, said the expulsion of Hou Dejian was equivalent to sending him into exile because he had chosen to live on the mainland after having defecting from Taiwan in 1983.



Chrysal Harmony debuts

Latest built Japan's luxury passenger liner the Chrysal Harmony debuts June 21 in Nagasaki, southern Japan. The 49,400 tonne ship which can accommodate 960 passengers and 430 crew members will make its maiden voyage to Hawaii in mid-July. (Reuters wirephoto).

Vietnam cracks down on dissidents

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam, June 23, (AP): Worry about domestic economic turmoil and the global crisis of communism is causing authorities to get even tougher with dissidents, Vietnamese and Western sources report.

The crackdown has included arrests, tightened surveillance and suppression of the only legal dissident group, the club of former resistance fighters. At least half a dozen foreigners have been detained since April and two Americans accused of anti-government activity were

"There is a tremendous sense of insecurity" in top party ranks, said a source with access to many officials. "There is a tightening up, and everybody is more cautious and afraid to say anything. They don't acknowledge it, but you can see it in their faces."

On June 16, Hanoi radio said the Interior Ministry counterintelligence force and police, in co-ordination with the armed forces, had "promptly cracked down on many troublemaking and sabotage activities."

Security forces "have" "30 persons violating Vietnam's laws," it said, "and over 200 foreigners entering the country illegally."



Northrop Corp. unveils

Northrop Corp. on Friday unveiled its version of a sleek, Stealth fighter plane for the 21st century, a prototype competing against Lockheed Corp. for a shrinking share of defence dollars.

The YF-23 is the Northrop version of the super-sonic Advanced Tactical Fighter, a futuristic aircraft the air force wants in order to maintain an air superiority edge well into the next century.

The ATF would replace the air force's current air superiority fighter, the F-15 Eagle, built by McDonnell Douglas.

Northrop is teamed with McDonnell Douglas against

Lockheed Corp. in a competition for the ATF contract, the last remaining major defence contract of the 1990s.

Kent Kress, chief executive officer and president of Northrop, hailed the aircraft as "an example of America's leadership in aviation... in an era when American competitiveness is being tested continually world-wide."

The air force wants to build 750 of the high-technology fighters. But the request comes during a period of increasing congressional demands for defence spending cuts because of improved East-West relations, and layoffs of thousands of aerospace workers nation-wide. (Reuters wirephoto).

Kaifu attends Okinawa war rites

ITOMAN, Japan, June 23, (Reuters): Forty-five years after the end of World War Two, Toshiki Kaifu became the first Japanese Prime Minister to attend a memorial service for victims of the battle of Okinawa and apologise to the islanders for their losses.

"I must say I am sorry... for the loss of the 200,000 lives in the only land battle in Japan during the last war. This shall not be forgotten," Kaifu told about 6,000 relatives of victims at the peace memorial park in Itoman.

The park is on a hill on the southern tip of Okinawa, the southern prefecture where the Japanese Army made its last stand before surrendering to American forces in June 23, 1945.

The late Emperor Hirohito never visited Okinawa to pay his respects to the war dead, and before Kaifu no Japanese prime minister had attended the June 23 service.

Kaifu's predecessors said their attendance at war memorial rites in Tokyo every August 15 — the anniversary of Japan's formal surrender — was sufficient.

At present there is no plan for a visit to Okinawa by the Emperor Akihito, a tribute most Okinawans say is long overdue.

Many at the service applauded when Kaifu arrived, but some still bore resentment.

"It's too late," said Etsuko Nagamine, 68, a former sailor in the Japanese Navy who lost his entire family in the battle.

Okinawa was governed by the US military until 1972, when the administration reverted to the Tokyo government. Nagamine said the prime minister and the Emperor should have come soon after that.

At noon, Kaifu and other participants observed a minute's silence and placed chrysanthemums in front of an altar in memory of the dead.

The three-month battle, known here as the "Gale of Iron," was by far the fiercest fighting in the Pacific theatre.

About half the war dead were Okinawan civilians, many of whom were forced to commit suicide by fanatical Japanese forces.

Earlier this week, Tokyo made two goodwill gestures to Okinawa, the poorest of Japan's 47 prefectures and one where one-fifth of the land is still taken up by US military bases.

The first was the revision of 23 unused US military facilities to their former owners.

And yesterday Tokyo said 5,000 US marines would pull out of Okinawa as part of the Pentagon's global policy of troop reduction. It did not, however, say when that would happen.

There are about 40,000 US military personnel on Okinawa.

Okinawa's average per capita income is the lowest of all Japanese prefectures, about half that of Tokyo. The main industries on the island of 1.2 million people are tourism and construction.

Kaifu and US President George Bush have issued a joint statement today reaffirming that the Japan-US security treaty will "remain a vital instrument." (Kuna)

China sanctions Japan likely to persuade West

TOKYO, June 23, (Reuters): Japan said today it would try to persuade leaders of the other six main industrialised democracies to ease economic sanctions imposed on China after it crushed a student democracy movement one year ago.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, quoted by the Kyodo news agency, also said that Japan would send a senior official to Beijing after next month's summit of leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) to discuss a resumption of loans to China.

"We will make efforts at the Houston (Texas) summit to begin heading toward a lifting of the sanctions," Kyodo quoted Nakayama as saying during a tour of Oita, southern Japan.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, according to a government official, told US President George Bush by telephone on Friday that he wanted to discuss China in their meeting in Houston before the start of the G-7 summit.

Eleven released after questioning

National Party office blasted

JOHANNESBURG, June 23, (AP): Police released 11 white men yesterday after questioning them about an alleged right-wing plot to assassinate African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk.

A sniper was to shoot Mandela at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport when he returns July 18 from his six-week tour of North America, Africa and Europe, the Afrikaans-language weekly newspaper Vrye Weekblad reported.

The South African Press Association quoted Mandela as saying in New York he was too busy to worry about any plot to kill him. The independent news agency said Mandela told reporters the ANC would be able to continue functioning well without him if he were assassinated.

The planned assassinations were part of a programme to create chaos in South Africa and cause a white right-wing uprising to stop the government's efforts to end apartheid and share political power with the voiceless black majority, according to the report.

"The first project was to kill Nelson Mandela... that would have happened with a .303 rifle (and) three bullets that have been handed over to the assassinator," said Jannie Smith, a former security policeman and

National Intelligence Service agent who worked with the newspaper on the story.

Smith had infiltrated far-right groups including the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, the most prominent of far-right groups. He went into hiding Friday morning under police guard after giving police an affidavit about the plot, Vrye Weekblad editor Max Du Preez said.

The newspaper said Smith was told at one point that he was to kill Mandela, but as soon as he heard of the plot, he alerted the ANC.

"They would have taken him (Mandela) out from the top of the building at Jan Smuts airport," Smith said in a video tape recording shown by Preez at a news conference.

Meanwhile, two explosions devastated offices of the ruling National Party in a Johannesburg suburb and a satellite town overnight but caused no casualties, police said today.

The blasts came the day after authorities tightened security around President Frederik de Klerk and police temporarily detained 11 right-wing activists following a report of a plot to assassinate the reformist De Klerk and black leader Nelson Mandela.

Industrial explosives were used in the first blast, which blew apart the party's Auckland Park office, police said, but the explosive type in the second attack, at Helderkrin — to the west — was unknown.

Two shadowy extremist groups, the White Wolves and the Farmers' Army, late Friday placed a bounty of rands 100,000 (\$37,000) on the head of the source of the assassination-plot report, former security policeman Jan Smith, who leaked the story to the Liberal Afrikaans newspaper Vrye Weekblad and Friday morning went into hiding as the paper hit the streets.

President F.W. de Klerk led his government's biannual move from Cape Town to Pretoria after a landmark parliamentary session that jarred South Africa loose from more than 40 years of rigid apartheid.

Hundreds of diplomats and officials will follow soon as the administration moves from Cape Town, seat of the parliament from which blacks are excluded, to Pretoria, the republic's capital.

The black National Union of Mineworkers (Num) accused South African mining companies of mismanagement on Friday and renewed their call for the industry to be nationalised.

"The nationalisation of the mines and the mining houses is a vital step in restructuring the distorted apartheid economy," it said in a statement.

Leaders of the million-strong Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) said on Friday they had accepted an invitation to meet President F.W. de Klerk next week to discuss a tough labour law they want repealed.

They will meet De Klerk and Manpower Minister Eli Louw in Pretoria on Tuesday morning.



Jannie Smith



ID to the rescue

Two South African policemen have had their lives saved by their plastic identity cards.

Constable Gideon Tarantail (shown above) said on Thursday that when a burglar fired at him, the bullet passed through a leather card holder, broke a credit card and lodged in a photograph on his identity document.

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News Roundup

UK poll

Labour slips

LONDON, June 23, (Kuna). Britain's main opposition Labour Party's lead over the Conservatives has slipped to just 11 points, according to a new survey published today.

But the gap would still give the Labour leader Neil Kinnock an overall majority of around 80 seats in the House of Commons.

The poll, carried by the Independent newspaper and the BBC television, demonstrates a gradual but persistent erosion in the massive lead enjoyed by Labour in previous surveys earlier this year.

It is also the narrowest gap between the two main parties since last January.

The Conservatives have gained three points since trailing by 15 per cent in the equivalent poll last month. Labour meanwhile has dropped one point.

River waters row

Syria has agreed to attend a ministerial meeting with Turkey and Iraq next week on sharing Turkey's southern river waters, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

Syria has advised acceptance on Thursday, ministry spokesman Murat Sungur said.

The June 26-27 meeting called by Ankara to thrash out the issue, a cause of friction with its downstream neighbours, would have been postponed possibly to August if Damascus had not agreed, he said. (Reuters)

Algeria summit

Foreign ministers of five north African states met in Tunis on Saturday to prepare for an Arab Maghreb Union summit due to take place in Algiers next month.

The ministers — from Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia — are looking at draft agreements on a customs union, free trade in agricultural products, investment protection and double taxation, Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil told the opening session of the meeting.

They will also discuss plans to give the 18-month-old union a permanent secretariat to co-ordinate the integration process. (Reuters)

Party offices ransacked

The opposition Socialist Forces Front (SFF) said its downtown Algiers office was ransacked early Saturday morning.

Unidentified persons forced open the door and emptied drawers and filing cabinets, tearing and littering membership lists and cards across the floor.

A party official said a telephone, typewriter, money and blank video cassettes were missing. (Reuters)

Confidence vote

Yemen's Parliament on Thursday gave an overwhelming vote of confidence to the one-month-old government of the Yemeni Republic led by Prime Minister Halder Abu bakr al Atas, Radio Sanaa reported.

The radio said the vote was held during a special session of the 304-seat Parliament attended by Atas.

A five-member presidential council headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh appointed 39 ministers of Yemen's first unity cabinet on May 24, two days after North and South Yemen merged into one state. (Reuters)

Women's seats

Officials on Friday conceded their parliamentary seats to three females to be appointed as new members to increase women's seats in the Parliament, Yemen news agency 'Saba' reported.

It listed the three officials as Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh, presidency council member Salem Saleh and State Minister for Parliament Affairs Rashid Thabit. (Kuna)

Amnesty accuses Chad

Amnesty International charged on Thursday that Chad troops killed dozens of prisoners in the northeast of the country and it urged an immediate inquiry by the N'Djamena government.

The London-based human rights organisation said that since March 1990 dozens of prisoners had been killed by government forces in the towns of Bahai, Tine and Iriba, near the border with Sudan.

It said the killings occurred in an area of fighting between the army and rebels of the Patriotic Front for the Salvation of Chad (EPSC), a coalition of armed groups opposed to President Hissene Habre. (Reuters)

Toll in flood reaches 48

The death toll from a flood triggered by a violent rainstorm reached 48 on Friday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The dispatch said 12 people were missing.

The seven-hour storm on Wednesday swept through the Black Sea coastal provinces of Trabzon and Giresun and hit the province of Gumushane.

Anatolia said 54 people remained hospitalized in Trabzon. (AP)

Palestinian families reunited

Wives and children of West Bank Palestinians began returning to their homes this week under a new Israeli policy allowing non-residents to stay in the area.

Palestinians said at least 10 women among the 250 mothers and children deported last year for overstaying their visas have arrived in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Others have been issued entry visas and are expected to return soon.

"They will be granted visitors permits and when they expire, they can ask for extension. But they will probably never be deported," said an Israeli defence official. (Reuters)

Elizabeth Harwood dies

Elizabeth Harwood, one of Britain's best-known sopranos in the 1970s, died of cancer on Friday, her family said. She was 52.

Harwood made her debut at London's Covent Garden in 1967 and became one of a select group of British singers chosen for leading parts at the Salzburg festival, where she appeared regularly during the early 1970s.

Musical critics described her tone as light, yet sustained, and praised her dramatic power.

One of her biggest successes, with conductor Sir Colin Davis, was a Terrence Rattigan 'Benvenuto Cellini'.

Herbert von Karajan picked her for the part of Hanna in his recording of 'The Merry Widow'.

Harwood's other recordings included 'Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Venezio in Delius', 'A Village Romeo and Juliet' and 'Musetta in Puccini's 'La Boheme'.

Plagued by ill-health by the mid-1970s, Harwood performed mostly at concerts and recitals. Her last public performance was in 1989 at the Bath festival. (Reuters)

Misty Miss Christy dies

June Christy, known as big band era and jazz fans as that "Misty Miss Christy," died. She was 64.

The singer, also called the "grande dame of modern jazz singing," died Thursday night from complications of kidney failure at her home in the Los Angeles area.

Miss Christy, who became famous in the '40s singing with the Stan Kenton orchestra, stopped performing five years ago because of her illness, said her husband, Bob Cooper, who played tenor saxophone in the group.

In 1945, her career was made when she recorded "Tampico" with the orchestra. She was named "best female vocalist with a big band" by down beat four years straight.

Silenced for good

Since 1790 a European has been attacked by a six foot (nearly two metres) roaring tiger often to the delight of children. Now that tiger is to be silenced for good. Seized in 1799 after the Sultan Tippu was slain by the British in Mysore it has been an exhibit at London's Victoria and Albert Museum since 1808. Using below the wooden tiger roars and the man wiggles. Due to age it will cease to be used. (Reuters wirephoto)

Europe

Seized plane leaves Turkey

A Soviet civilian plane flown to northwest Turkey on Monday by its asylum-seeking pilot, was allowed to leave on Saturday with a replacement crew on board, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said.

The Antonov-2 aircraft seized by pilot Valeri Yurevich was flown to Istanbul's Ataturk airport by a four-man Soviet aircrew late Friday for refuelling before heading back to Odessa.

Yurevich, 29, who landed near Kandira on the Black Sea coast, appeared before a local prosecutor to hear charges of illegal entry and was fined only 10,000 lira (\$3), the Anatolian news agency said. (Reuters)

Reintroduce war crimes bill

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government has decided to delay the untested House of Lords and reintroduce a bill to allow the prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, leader of the House of Commons, announced Thursday night that the government intends during the next session of Parliament to submit the war crimes bill, which was overwhelmingly defeated in the Lords last month.

The Lords' powers are limited to delaying legislation for one year. (AP)

Claims responsibility

The guerrilla Irish Republican Army (IRA) said on Friday it planted a bomb which exploded at a Royal Air Force base in a London suburb on Thursday.

The bomb, hidden in a rucksack, damaged an empty building in the base in northwest London but caused no casualties.

In a statement in Dublin, the IRA said it had "penetrated high security to place a bomb in the RAF base at Stanmore Park."

Police believe the device was thrown over a perimeter fence. (Reuters)

Pope to consecrate

Pope John Paul II will visit Ivory Coast to September to consecrate a controversial Basilica built and donated to the Holy See by President Felix Houphouët-Boigny, the Vatican said on Saturday.

Spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Pope would stop at Yamoussoukro, where Houphouët-Boigny was born, at the end of a tour of Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda from September 1 to 10. (Reuters)

Separatists to return

Basque separatists said on Friday they would return to the Spanish Parliament after a ban on their presence was lifted, but they expect a mixed reception.

"We shall go back and address (Parliament) as many times as needed," spokesman Jon Idigoras of the Herri Batasuna (HB) Party, regarded as the political arm of the guerrilla group ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom), told reporters. (Reuters)

Guards thwart escape

Guards foiled an attempted escape by helicopter from Nice prison on Friday, police said.

The guards sounded the alarm as a helicopter hovered over the prison yard in an unsuccessful attempt to pick up a prisoner.

Police later detained the pilot. He said he was forced to fly by the French Riviera prison by two unidentified passengers, who were arrested across the nearby Italian border. (Reuters)

Tutu honoured

Nobel peace prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu tips his mortarboard to the crowd after being awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity June 20 by Oxford University. He was hailed as a champion of freedom seeking to destroy apartheid. (Reuters wirephoto)

Zaire cuts Belgium

Zaire sharply reduced diplomatic and other ties with Belgium on Friday because of its criticism of human rights abuses in the former Belgian colony, the official Zairean News Agency Azapa reported.

The move came a month after Belgium "froze relations with Zaire over the May 12 killing of students at the University of Lubumbashi. A Zairean parliamentary panel said later it could not say how many died when a "commando" unit attacked the students.

Belgium rejected the finding this week and again called for an independent inquiry. On Friday, Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko accused Belgium of meddling in Zaire's internal affairs. (AP)

UN pledges \$200m aid

The international community has pledged more than \$200 million for the economic reconstruction of Namibia this year, Foreign Minister Theo-Ben Guribaj announced Friday.

The pledges came in response to appeals by the president of newly independent Namibia, Sam Nujoma, during a two-day conference of donor countries.

Malaysia urges Vietnam

Malaysia urged Vietnam and the Western resettlement countries Saturday to stop boatpeople from leaving Vietnam and to resettle or return home the 150,000 stranded in Southeast Asian refugee camps.

Malaysian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Abdul Kader said "the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) must be maintained."

The seven-point plan, agreed to at last June's Geneva conference on Indo-Chinese refugees, calls on Vietnam to prevent illegal departures, urges the resettlement countries like the United States, Canada, Australia and France to continue to offer permanent homes to boatpeople and called on the Southeast Asian nations to maintain a safe asylum.

Last year 40,000 people left Vietnam legally under the orderly departure programme and refugee officials estimate this will have increased to 60-70,000 by the end of 1990. However, the outflow of boatpeople has not been stemmed. (UPI)

2 held for taking bribes

Two authorities arrested in former provincial governor and the leader of fisheries co-



Have a good time off court

Americana Jennifer Capriati (left) and Martine Navratilova (centre) along with Spain's Arantxa Sanchez have a good time with a stuffed

alligator at the Annual Women's Ball at the Eastbourne Tennis Tournament early Friday.

Capriati aged 14 is the youngest seed in Grand Slam history. (Reuters wirephoto)

France's literary ambassador

Pivot says good-bye

PARIS, June 23, (AP). Bernard Pivot, France's No. 1 literary ambassador, says good-bye Friday night to millions of viewers after 15 years as host of a talk show which turned authors and books into television stars.

The rumpled, affable Pivot, who became a national institution as host of "Apostrophe," transformed books into topics of public debate and kept even avid TV viewers in contact with the world of literature.

An author's appearance on the weekly 90-minute show nearly guaranteed increased book sales.

"Publishers are going to have to use their imagination now," said Francois Nourissier of the Academie Goncourt, the prestigious literary prize that annually awards France's top book prize. For 15 years, he said, Pivot "did a good part of their job."

Studies show "Apostrophe" influenced up to one-third of book-buyers. In 1982, Regis Debray, former counsellor to President Francois Mitterrand, complained that Pivot was becoming a "dictator of the book market."

Pivot, 55, said he was bowing out after 724 shows because he is tired of reading 10 hours a day.

His eyes, his taste and even authors are wearing out on him, Le Figaro magazine wrote.

"The authors have changed," it quoted Pivot as saying. "They get on too well ... I try sometimes to spark a fire, but the fire doesn't take."

Pivot first noticed a problem when he began disliking novels, especially historical novels and, most especially, those about the Middle Ages and the French Revolution, the magazine wrote.

A lover of soccer and Beaujolais, Pivot brought books into France's living rooms, making his literary gathering a "sporting event," as one publisher put it.

"Pivot democratized books," said Francois Verly, the literary director of the publishing house Flammarion. "Thanks to him, books became familiar to everyone."

So did the cliff-faced man with a shock of unkempt hair and half-specs sliding down his nose, who every Friday at 9:30 pm gathered an assortment of authors to discuss, praise or criticize each other's books.

Occasionally, Pivot spent his weekly rendezvous with a single author. He travelled to the Vermont home of Soviet exile Alexander Solzhenitsyn and the Swiss home of Vladimir Nabokov, conspiratorially pouring whiskey from a tea pot for his ill-at-ease guest throughout the 90 minutes.

Boeing recalling software

Boeing Co. of the United States is recalling the flight management computer software for its newly produced B747-400 airplanes because of a programming problem, a report said Friday.

Kyodo News Service, quoting unidentified industry sources, said Boeing will replace the defective software with an improved version after receiving permission from the US Federal Aviation Administration for the new version, possibly as early as next week.

Weather delays poll results

Final results of last month's election in Burma will be delayed because bad weather has hampered access to remote areas, Burmese state radio said.

China flood toll 254

The death toll from torrential rains and floods last week in south China has risen to 254, with nearly 75,000 people homeless and damage estimated at \$350 million, official reports said Saturday.

Nepal won't turn republic

A constitution-writing commission will not turn Nepal into a republic but will maintain it as a constitutional monarchy, Commission Chairman Bishwa Nath Upadhyaya said Saturday.

The terms of reference that we have received clearly envisages that we are to recommend a constitution which shall ensure and strengthen constitutional monarchy and multi-party system of government," the supreme court justice told United Press International.

"We shall not consider any suggestion which goes against the said terms of reference." (UPI)

Audubon book sold

A book dealer from New Mexico paid \$1.7 million pounds (\$2.9 million) at auction Thursday for Audubon's "The Birds of America" book, Sotheby's auctioneers said.

William R. Talbot (shown above) said he was "delighted" with the purchase made for a client, who he declined to name.

"I'm just glad to have one of the greatest colour plate books of all time and one of the greatest pieces of Americana," said the Santa Fe book dealer.

Malaysia urges Vietnam

Malaysia urged Vietnam and the Western resettlement countries Saturday to stop boatpeople from leaving Vietnam and to resettle or return home the 150,000 stranded in Southeast Asian refugee camps.

Oil spill in Antarctic

Workers at an Antarctic station are working to clean up a 90,000-litre (23,700-gallon) oil spill from a storage tank.

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Businessman freed

A Brazilian advertising executive kidnapped two weeks ago was released unhurt after his family paid a reported \$2.5 million in ransom, police said Friday.

Roberto Medina, head of the Artplan Advertising Agency, was turned loose near downtown Rio late Thursday night after the money was dropped by the side of an expressway, federal Rep. Robem Medina, the victim's brother, said in a live televised interview.

Blast at bank

An explosive device placed at a bank apparently to protest the government's policy of selling state companies went off Friday, injuring three policemen who were trying to defuse it, local news agencies reported.

The incident occurred at a branch of Banco Rio in Villa Urquiza, 8 kms (5 miles) north of downtown Buenos Aires.

Radio Marti jammed

Cuban authorities have been jamming US-sponsored Radio Marti broadcasts for several weeks in Havana and soon will block the signals throughout the country, the Cuban news agency said Friday.

In a dispatch monitored in Mexico City, Prensa Latina cited the Cuban Communist Party publication Granma as saying Radio and TV Marti broadcasts will be unavailable to Cuban audiences.

Cocaine seized

Venezuelan customs officials seized 200 kilos of cocaine bound for Italy hidden in two trunks in an Alitalia baggage storage area, an airport security official said on Friday.

Security officials at the international airport serving Caracas arrested a Venezuelan man who had checked the trunks onto Saturday's Alitalia flight to Milano, the official told reporters. The trunks, declared as "personal effects," contained clothes and books along with the cocaine.

Lions kill man

Two lions that escaped from a travelling circus killed one man and were shot dead by police before the animals agency Telam reported Friday.

The incident occurred Thursday evening in this town 90 miles (145 kms) north of Buenos Aires. The lion apparently got loose as the Acari village was departing for a show in another village.

Each lion wandered into a private home and attacked two occupants, according to Radio San Pedro. (AP)

Kohl to offer hefty aid to Moscow: Bonn magazine

BONN, June 23. (AP) Chancellor Helmut Kohl plans to travel to Moscow in late July bearing a hefty economic aid package for the moribund Soviet economy, a leading West German news magazine said today.

However, a government spokesman in Bonn denied the report.

The Hamburg-based news magazine "Der Spiegel" said the "generous" Western economic credit would total 25-30 billion marks (\$15-19 billion).

Most of that would be guaranteed by the West German government, the weekly news magazine said in its Monday edition, portions of which were made available to other media today.

Yesterday, the government confirmed it would back a West German bank credit of 5 billion marks (\$3.1 billion) to help the Soviet economy shift from central planning to a free-market system.

Chief government spokesman Hans

Klein said the 12-year bank credit marked the start of a West German initiative to get large-scale international support for the Soviet Union.

Spiegel said Kohl hoped to assuage Soviet concerns about NATO membership for a united Germany, which Moscow has opposed. The strategic stance of a united Germany is one of the biggest obstacles remaining to be worked out before German unification.

The magazine said Kohl's visit to

Moscow would probably be either July 24 or July 25. It would be Kohl's second meeting this year with Gorbachev. In February, the two met in the Soviet capital.

"The chancellor has no such plans for such a journey," a Bonn government spokesman said. However, he noted that during their February summit Kohl and Gorbachev agreed to maintain close personal contact.

The spokesman also called the

estimated Western economic credit pure speculation by the magazine.

Kohl meets with the 11 other leaders of the European Economic Community Monday and Tuesday in Ireland. In July, he will be among leaders of the seven major industrialised democracies gathering in Houston for the world economic summit.

The West German leader said yesterday after meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand that

international economic support for the Soviet Union was desperately needed and that he would seek such support at the summit. Mitterrand called need for the help "urgent."

West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel, in an interview with the weekly newspaper "Welt Am Sonntag," said other European countries should follow West Germany's example, referring in the bank credit announced yesterday.

Reform opponent to head Russian party

Polozkov backs Gorbachev as Soviet party leader

MOSCOW, June 23. (Agencies) A conservative standard-bearer elected to head the dominant Russian republic's new Communist Party said today he thought he could work with Mikhail Gorbachev despite his earlier hostility to the Soviet President's reforms.

Ivan Polozkov, currently party boss in Krasnodar, is best known for closing down all co-operative business in the region he controlled and his unsuccessful challenge to Boris Yeltsin last month to head the Russian Parliament.

Polozkov moderated his stand at a news conference after results of

the election to head the new Russian Communist Party were announced today, saying he did not understand his reputation as a hard-line conservative. He said he wanted Gorbachev to retain the leadership of the Soviet Communist party.

He said he was now in favour of market reforms "since our economists and our politicians found no other way of getting our economy out of the situation it is in now."

But he added, "given our shortages and imbalances, I am very much concerned about an economic explosion or a social explosion."

Despite the fact that as Krasnodar Party boss he closed all the private co-operative businesses in the region, Polozkov said he supported some forms of private property, though only for small-scale businesses.

"It was argued that I was against co-operatives and the theory of co-operatives as such, but this is not true," Polozkov said. He did not explain why he had closed the Krasnodar co-operatives.

He said under his leadership the party would not abandon socialism, a charge that has been levelled at reformers within the party.

"We are convinced that the overwhelming majority of the members of the congress... agree that the Communist Party of the Russian Federation will be a party of the socialist choice," he said. "It will remain true to the ideals of the October Revolution and it will base itself on the ideals of socialism."

Polozkov was elected in a run-off vote last night at the founding congress of the Russian Communist Party. Previously the huge Russian republic did not have its own separate party branch like the other 14 republics.

Polozkov received 1,396 votes in the results announced today and a more moderate party official, Oleg Lobov, got 1,066.

Lobov had been a dark horse among the original slate of seven candidates, four of them arch conservatives, but as a moderate more receptive to reforms he was seen as a way to bridge the gap between conservatives and radicals.

Conservatives hope that Polozkov, who spoke today of a "crisis of leadership" in the party, will lead the charge against Gorbachev's policies at the crucial 28th Soviet Communist Party congress in July.

Friday's elections followed three days of harsh criticism of Gorbachev by conservatives who say his democratic reforms have crippled the once-mighty party's ability to solve problems.

Polozkov said today that despite his previous opposition to both Gorbachev and Yeltsin he felt he could maintain a good relationship with the Soviet and Russian government leaders.

"I believe that the party will work actively to carry out in practice the strategies and policies and to implement all the measures undertaken by the president," he said.

Asked whether Gorbachev should maintain his dual role as Soviet President and General Secretary of the Communist Party, a key question since the party gave up its constitutional right to a leading role in ruling the country, Polozkov said he felt it was still necessary for one person to hold both jobs.

"We are experiencing a crucial period for the country and the party," Polozkov said. "The presidential power has not yet gained full momentum, and the party power cannot be easily dismissed."

"At this stage our President has to combine the post of the general secretary so as to actively involve the party... it should be more actively involved."



Gorbachev (right) shakes hands with Ivan Polozkov at the Russian Communist Party Congress on June 23. At left Polozkov stands up among delegates and raises his arms after he was elected leader of the Communist Party. (Reuter wirephotos)



Differences narrow

Talks on Germany's future

EAST-BERLIN, June 23. (Reuters) US officials took a relaxed view of a detailed Soviet proposal on Germany opposed by the West, saying it was more for domestic political consumption than anything else.

But they also displayed some irritation with Moscow's dogged refusal to resolve a central dispute

over a united Germany's military status.

"The train of German unification is leaving the station," a senior American official said yesterday after talks on Germany's future.

"Fundamentally, the Soviets have to face the choice of whether they want to get on the train or isolate themselves," he added.



Soldiers of the French, British and American Forces (from left to right) carry away the sign of the Allied Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin June 22. (Reuter wirephotos)

But some differences were reportedly narrowed during the one-day meeting in East Berlin and officials are optimistic a deal could be struck by year's end.

How NATO leaders define the Western alliance's more political role in an era of diminishing Soviet threat at their London summit next month is shaping up as a major milestone on the road to an agreement on Germany.

US officials insist no promises have been made to Moscow but it appears increasingly clear NATO allies may formally declare the Warsaw Pact countries are no longer their enemies.

Another milestone is the Soviet Communist Party Congress, due to begin on July 2.

US officials and private analysts say that meeting will be a test of strength for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who is under political fire from right and left, and may determine what kind of a deal he can strike on Germany.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze unveiled the new proposal yesterday at a ceremony to dismantle the checkpoint Charlie border post, symbol of the cold war.

It was the first detailed plan presented to the "two-plus-four" talks involving both Germans and the four World War Two allies — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

It called for a 50 per cent cut in all foreign forces in Germany over three years, withdrawal of all Western and Soviet forces from Berlin in the first six months after German unification, a ceiling on a united Germany's army and continued membership of both Germany in NATO and the Warsaw Pact for five years.

US Secretary of State James Baker rejected the proposal, saying it would restrict German sovereignty for several years.

A senior US official who asked not to be identified said the draft exposed a fundamental difference. The Germans and the Western allies want to terminate the four-power rights and responsibilities in a final settlement, while "the Soviets don't seem willing to do that now," he said.

But he noted the Soviet Party Congress was soon and said of Shevardnadze's proposal: "I see

that as a public document that was prepared as much for Moscow as it was for Germany. In fact it probably was prepared more for Moscow than Germany."

Shevardnadze's draft reflects "a lot of old thinking" and repeats some positions that are no longer held by Moscow in private conversation, the official said, without elaboration.

next Moody's fail.

Church sources mediating in the talks said the Gulf between the sides was still enormous.

The rebels insist that Doe, who seized power in a bloody 1980 coup, step down. Doe refuses but has promised not to stand for re-election next year.

Hundreds of Careyburg villagers with little food have been sheltering in the VOA compound since Wednesday's attack, witnesses said.

The VOA transmitter, which broadcasts to most of Africa, is still working.

Liberian rebels clash with govt troops near VOA transmitter

MONROVIA, June 23. (Reuters) Rebels advancing on the Liberian capital Monrovia clashed with government troops yesterday near a Voice of America Radio (VOA) transmitter.

Residents fleeing the area said they heard firing near Careyburg, captured by the rebels on Wednesday, which is just a mile from the transmitter.

Careyburg is 30 km (20 miles) northeast of Monrovia where President Samuel Doe has surrounded himself with Israeli-trained bodyguards and his best troops. Many Liberians fear a bloody battle for Monrovia.

Troops were seen heading for Careyburg but government officials said they had no information about fighting.

The residents said rebels had also attacked Bensonville, eight km (five miles) west of Careyburg.

Bensonville is the first of a string of small settlements leading to a dam and reservoir which supply Monrovia's water and hydroelectric power.

Charles Taylor, leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia guerrillas, has vowed to take Monrovia if peace talks due to resume



Mandela raises his fist in a salute to the delegates of the United Nations General Assembly after he finished his speech June 22. (Reuter wirephotos)

ANC faces scrutiny

Accountability questioned

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, June 23. (AP) While Nelson Mandela is cheered abroad as the symbol of the anti-apartheid struggle, South Africans debate whether his African National Congress can or should run the country.

Shortcomings often were overlooked when the ANC was an outlawed underground fighting the white government from exile for three decades.

Since it was legalised in February, South Africans have begun considering how to hold the government to account.

Many people, however, who say the ANC would stand for in a South African ruled by the black majority.

Socialism, democracy and nationalisation seem to mean different things to different ANC leaders. Some of their statements send conflicting messages to young and often poorly organised supporters.

Mandela and other leaders call for peace among warring black groups in the townships, but the ANC still supports a bombing and sabotage campaign against the government.

Harry Gwala, the group's leader in Natal province, suggested May 1 that people who have fought the ANC, such as black policemen and township wardens, could face firing squads under an ANC government.

Gwala's statement "reveals the extent to which his so-called future 'people's government' will be autocratic, dictatorial and barbaric," said a statement from Inkatha, the ANC's chief rival in Natal.

More than 600 people have been killed in factional violence in Natal this year.

"Inkatha is not the enemy," Mandela said on two trips to Natal. ANC leaders in the province disagree.

On the eve of his international tour, Mandela said, "the only type of violence that we accept is organized violence in the form of armed action which is properly controlled and where the targets have been carefully selected."

The main targets continue to be black policemen and black township officials and their families, however, not government buildings and military installations.

A 1984-89 urban bombing campaign by MKhoos We Sizwe, the ANC military wing, killed or wounded three times more blacks, Indians and mixed-race people than whites.

Mandela acknowledged in May that ANC members had tortured dissident members, but said it was not the organisation's policy and that the leadership had dealt with those responsible.

A few days later, Steve Tshwete, an ANC guerrilla commander, said the practice was justified. He said those tortured were murderers "dealt with just as any army would do when faced with a mutiny."

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu recommended an independent inquiry, and declared: "I'm as firmly opposed to that kind of activity by the ANC as I am to being persecuted by the government."

Several prominent supporters have said that, because of years of exile when the leaders could not consult the people they wished to represent, the ANC's operating methods became undemocratic.

most developed nation. Potential supporters, newspapers, rival groups and citizens of all races are asking questions about the accountability, principles, morality and efficiency of the ANC as it changes from an underground liberation movement to a functioning political party.

Rallies, polls and political pundits indicate the ANC has majority support among South Africa's 28 million blacks, but it also has many rivals and has not had the opportunity to prove itself in an election.

Winnie calls necklacing barbaric: Winnie Mandela said Friday that a 1986 quote in which she seemed to endorse the practice of killing suspected blacks by binding them inside gasoline-soaked burning tires "was reported completely out of context."

The wife of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela called the practice, called necklacing, barbaric.

"No sane human being would condone that method of eliminating any opponent," Mrs. Mandela said.

Mrs. Mandela spoke while taping an appearance on the Phil Donahue Show, an American television show.

She said young people have resorted to necklacing as a retaliation against blacks accused of collaborating with the white government to perpetuate apartheid, but "that was not the form or method approved by the ANC."

(AP)

I'll be the first to take up arms: Winnie Mandela said on Friday she feels angrier than her husband Nelson about apartheid and that if talks between the ANC and the South African government failed, "I will be the first to go back to the Bush and take up arms."

Her comments, made during a pre-taped interview on the Phil Donahue television show, received a standing ovation from the studio audience.

Mrs. Mandela, who has been hailed as a heroine during her husband's triumphant New York Tour, told Donahue, "Sir, we have no violence to renounce. The method used by your oppressor determines your reaction." (Reuter)

"Nelson, meet my son, Mandela": "Nelson Mandela, I named my son after you," shouted a young woman, tears of joy streaming down her face as she held the child aloft for her hero to see at city hall.

Mandela looked down from the podium and with a warm smile and a wave reduced the woman to sobs.

The woman, Uhuru Williams, brought her 3-year-old son Mandela Williams with her from her home in Rochester, New York. Uhuru means freedom in the African language Swahili. (UPI)

Jews disappointed

Mandela's embrace of Arafat

NEW YORK, June 23. (AP) Several Jewish organisations reacted with disappointment to Nelson Mandela's willingness to accept help from leaders they called enemies of democracy and promoters of terrorism, yet they vowed to remain in the fight against apartheid.

Abraham H. Foxman, a member of the Jewish group that met with Mandela in Geneva two weeks ago, said Mandela's embrace of Yasser Arafat, Moammar Khaddafi and Fidel Castro was troubling.

Americans will continue to support Mandela's struggle against apartheid, said Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League. "They are likely, however, to take issue with his remarks which reiterated his loyalty to... sworn enemies of the United States and democracy."

Mandela voiced sentiments of solidarity with the leaders of the PLO, Libya and Cuba in a television interview on Thursday.

Asked about the renewed controversy over his remarks yesterday in a taped interview with Charlayne Hunter-Gault of the MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour, Mandela said, "I am astonished as I was when this furor originally arose."

He called the criticisms the "typical attitude of countries which approach the problem (of apartheid) from the point of view of their own interests."

The hour-long interview was broadcast on PBS

Mandela takes his message to Boston

BOSTON, June 23. (Reuters) Boston, the first US city to end investment in South Africa in protest at Pretoria's apartheid race laws, lays out the red carpet today for black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Organisers see the visit as an opportunity for a city often divided by racial tensions to draw strength from a man regarded by millions of Americans as a living example of hope and harmony.

Boston's council has declared a "Mandela Week," the flag of his African National Congress (ANC) flies above City Hall and billboards in the ANC's colours of red, green and yellow line his motorcade route.

Church bells will chime in unison as Mandela, 71, is driven through the predominantly-black Roxbury neighbourhood and local radio stations will simultaneously broadcast the ANC's anthem.

Up to half a million people are expected at an all-day concert where Mandela, on an eight-city US tour to press home his anti-apartheid message, is due to speak.

"The problems Mandela is facing in South Africa have relevance to this community," said Themba Vilakazi, a voting member of the ANC and executive director of the Fund for a Free South Africa, organisers of the Boston leg of the tour.

"If there is one thing I hope that derives from his trip it is the central message of his life... that the racial differences that divide us are insignificant in terms of the things that bind us as human beings."

Mandela, freed from jail in South Africa in February after serving 27 years of a life sentence for plotting to overthrow white minority rule, arrives from New York where hundreds of thousands of people cheered him during a ticker tape parade.

He was given virtual head of state treatment at the United Nations, where he brushed aside fears for his life after 11 whites allegedly plotting to kill him were arrested in his homeland.

Several black leaders in Boston had said that Mandela should speak in the heart of the city's black community instead of at the concert of the Charles River Esplanade.

But those who had pushed for a rally in Franklin Park, which borders black neighbourhoods, gave backing last week to the Esplanade concert for the sake of unity.

"It would have been better if it had been held in Franklin Park golf course," said Minister Don Muhammad of the Nation of Islam. "But we're doing everything we can to make the visit of Nelson Mandela successful and a momentous occasion."

Mandela's day begins with a visit to an inner-city high school and, after his swing through Roxbury, he will attend a lunch given by Senator Edward Kennedy, who spearheaded a congressional battle in 1986 to pass an anti-apartheid act.

The tight schedule left little time for Mandela and his wife, Winnie, to visit two of his daughters, Zinzi Mandela-Dlamini and Makaziwe Mandela, who are studying at local colleges. A brief meeting is planned for Sunday morning before Mandela leaves for Washington.

Mandela's outshine Eddie Murphy, Robin Williams and dozens of other celebrities at a big money fund-raiser that capped his historic New York visit.

last night.

President Robert K. Lifton and executive director Henry Siegman of the American Jewish Congress said that aid to the African National Congress should not excuse "the terrorism and human rights violations of the Khaddafis, Arafats and Castros of this world...."

"The idea that the terrorism and the egregious abuses of human rights practiced by those countries should be considered 'internal affairs' in which outsiders need not interfere should be profoundly objectionable to Mr. Mandela and the ANC, for they have urged the world to intervene massively in the 'internal affairs' of South Africa's racist regime."

Seymour D. Reich, chairman of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organisations, said the group also was disappointed, but added, "our fight against apartheid has no strings."

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, a body of 63 Jewish groups in the metropolitan area, also said it would continue to oppose apartheid but found Mandela's comments "disquieting."

The administration of US President George Bush brushed aside Mandela's support for anti-American leaders and said that his meetings here next week will focus on negotiations to end apartheid in South Africa.

IDB approves \$126.3m in loans and grants

Bangladesh gets \$4.44m

JEDDAH, June 23, (Opecna): The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) agreed at its 115th session to extend \$126.3 million in fresh loans, technical assistance and grants including \$49.2 million to finance projects in five member states.

Of the development loans, Niger will receive \$5.4 million for a oasis project in the north of the country, bringing total financing by the bank to Niger to \$37.3 million.

Bangladesh will benefit from \$4.44 million for the digging of 200 wells to

irrigate 12,000 acres in the south west of the country. This brings total funding by the bank to \$129.75 million.

An amount of \$16 million will go to Turkey for the purchase of equipment for a cancer hospital in Ankara, bringing the bank's total lending to the country to \$264.5 million.

Gabon is to receive \$2.8 million to finance a cocoa and coffee bean project in the east of the country, bringing total bank funding to the country to \$30 million.

Algeria will benefit from \$9.5 million for

the purchase of building materials. The bank has so far provided Algeria with \$70 million.

Trade finance

The bank earmarked a total of \$66.1 million to finance foreign trade transactions in member countries.

Of this amount, Iraq is to receive \$6 million for the import of aluminium and polyethylene from Saudi Arabia or Bahrain, Algeria (\$7.6 million) for chemical imports from Turkey, Morocco

(\$15 million) for crude oil imports from Iraq, Tunisia (\$5 million) for sulphur imports from a member country, Pakistan (\$16.5 million) for crude oil purchases from Saudi Arabia, and Turkey (\$16 million), 10 million for cotton purchases and \$6 million for palm oil imports.

The bank further agreed to extend \$2.6 million in technical assistance to Libya to promote fishing at Sirte Bay.

Also approved, was the extension of a number of grants to Muslim communities in non-member countries.

Public interest will be served: ministers

Better services

NEWLY appointed ministers expressed their appreciation for the trust and confidence entrusted in them by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince. They stressed that the interests and prosperity of Kuwait will be their main objectives, particularly during this critical phase which Kuwait is experiencing.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber said that a ministerial post is an appointment to serve the nation and pointed out that each individual should dedicate himself to serving the country. He added that he had received the ministry from his brother, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmad and said that he will continue in his footsteps to serve public interest. He wished all ministry employees success in their undertakings and called on them to work together to upgrade the level of services of their respective ministries.

The State Minister for Housing Affairs, Yafya Fahad Al Samir thanked HH the Amir and the Crown Prince for their confidence in him and commented that he will utilise his post to serve Kuwait and its citizens.

With respect to resolving the housing issue and following directives of HH the Crown Prince in minimising the waiting period of citizens for houses, he said that he will be initiating personal contacts with citizens to develop a viable policy. Speaking of opting for vertical construction, he said that the Kuwaiti living style is not commensurate with this system. However, he said the area is limited and this aspect will have to be taken into consideration.

Minister of Education, Dr Abdullah Youssef Al Ghunaim said that the coming stage will witness a root transformation in Kuwait's direction to build a democracy based on a co-operative spirit. He said that addressing the welfare of Kuwait's future generations will be the main objective and he praised the efforts extended by previous ministers of education.

With elaborating, he said that currently plans are being developed for modernising and streamlining the activities of his ministry. These will be the continuation of the policies formulated by previous education ministers and will focus on developing educational curricula.

State Minister for Municipal Affairs, engineer Fahad Abdullah Al Hassawi said that as he has served in this department for quite some time, he is well aware of the intricacies involved and will exert every effort to serve the nation.

Minister of Public Health, Dr Abdul Wahab Sulaiman Al Fouzan expressed his determination to upgrade the level of health services in the country and to actively pursue injecting top professionals in the medical services.

Minister of Oil, Dr Rasheed Salem Al Ameri said that placing the right man in the right spot will pave the way for more co-operation and co-ordination. He said that he will work towards resolving all pending issues that had caused differences of opinion in the past.

The official said that the most important project in the oil sector during the coming state is the

Petrochemical Complex Project which is a gigantic undertaking encompassing a number of factories. The onset of this project will be a new transformation for the oil industry in Kuwait.

On oil related prices, he said that no single country is in a position to control oil prices and called for enhanced co-operation among GCC oil ministers to preserve a realistic oil price.

Objective
State Minister for National Council Affairs, Dr Bader Jusem Al Yaqoub said that the interests of the country take precedence and all should work toward achieving this objective.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said that he is honoured to have been given this trust by HH the Amir and Crown Prince and hoped that he will measure up to their expectations in the responsibility placed on him. He said that he hoped that National Council members will meet the requirements of those who have nominated them.

Jusem Mohammed Al Mousa, Minister of Public Works, said as ministers they are required to carry out the mandate entrusted to them and as it is the beginning of a new era, a radical transformation will take place in the political, social and economic fields. To achieve a qualitative and quantitative transformation requires dedication and commitment by all members. He said that journalism plays a vital role in supporting this goal through guidance and addressing objective issues. The development of national manpower is essential for a tangible transformation, the official said.

Municipality warns of disaster in market

KUWAIT MUNICIPALITY has warned the markets management of a pending disaster in one of the public markets inside the city.

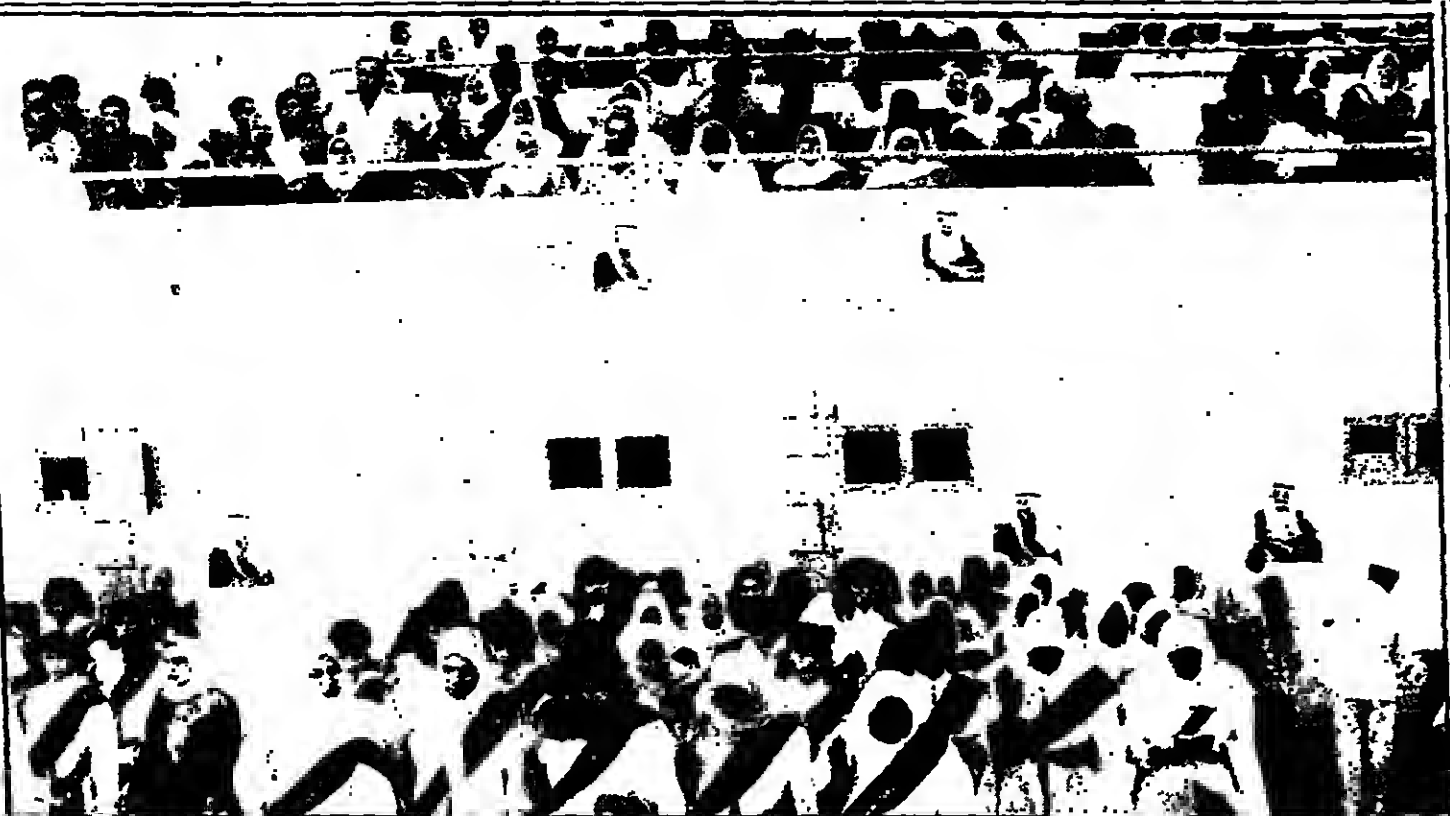
Municipality personnel have reportedly carried out testing of the structural foundations and beams of one of the markets due to the presence of fissures caused by overload.

An ad-hoc committee formed for this purpose has already submitted its final report to the director general of the municipality Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali with two recommended solutions.

The solutions recommended involved the final closure of the market and performance of an overall study, and the other solution is to support the foundations of the market and set up support pillars for the existing beams until a final solution is reached.

Meanwhile the emergence of fissures and occurrences of depressions in the beams remains a long-standing problem, since the depression of the existing Surrah-Jabriya bridge two years ago, and the depression of the ground floor of a building to Sabah Al Salem a week ago.

The municipality in the meantime keeps trying to find an appropriate solution to this problem.



25th batch of nursing graduates

The director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Muhallan patronised a special function to honour the 25th batch of graduates at the Nursing Institute Theatre in Shuwaik.

Present at the function were the authority's deputy director-general Hmoud Al Mudaf, a number of senior officials at the authority and nursing staff.

The director of the Nursing Institute Sheikh Al Muzen delivered a speech in which she said that over the past 29 years of the institute's existence a total of 1,112 nurses had graduated of whom 530 were Kuwaitis, 127 of them specialised in surgical nursing, 307 in maternity care and 21 in social health.

She stressed that the constant and regular evaluation of the existing level of nursing services and the creation of the needed scientific technological, psychological and social environment for the nursing field is the basis for the overall development of the existing level of nursing services.

She pointed out that the existing negativities are the result of the limited scope of independence currently available to the nursing profession and that the independence of any profession is the primary driving factor for its dynamic and impressive posture.

She said that the lack of enthusiasm exhibited by Kuwaiti girls to join nursing studies is basically the outcome of the fact that society generally frowns on this profession, and also the failure of applicants to pass the English test.

She stressed the need to Arabise nursing sciences and consequently nursing education, adding that the process should not be an arduous task as Arabic is a rich language that can adapt to all needs and purposes.

She expressed high hope that this subject will receive due attention from the authorities concerned.

At the end of the function, Dr Muhallan handed out graduation certificates to the graduates.

Kuwaiti thief arrested

FINTAS security men arrested a Kuwaiti national identified as H.F. for carrying out a number of thefts at west Fintas and other areas.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to eight robberies of jewellery, television sets, wrist-watches and other expensive articles. He said that he had an accomplice who he identified as A.H. — non-Kuwaiti. A search to apprehend the accomplice is under way.

Official sources said that the accused is an ex-con who was placed in the social care home. He has been referred to the juvenile court for prosecution.

Boussena arrives in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, June 23, (Opecna): Opec conference alternate president and Algeria's mines minister Sadek Boussena said here today that the recent oil price slide could cost Opec member countries \$7 billion a year in lost revenue.

In a statement on his arrival, the minister said he would be holding talks with United Arab Emirates Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr Maad Saeed Otaiba on ways to arrest the recent slide on oil prices as well as oil market developments.

Earlier, Boussena said he felt the present situation on the oil market needed to be improved "without delay."

Official under interrogation for bribery

THE public prosecution is reportedly interrogating a senior official at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, operating at the Farwaniya centre, on charges of bribery, taken by some of the centre's personnel from commercial shops in the area.

A local daily reported that one of the centre's personnel was put in prison after being charged with taking bribes from one of the shops.

Joint stock/closed companies

40 per cent suffer chronic financial problems: study

APPROXIMATELY 40 per cent of local joint stock and closed companies are suffering financial burdens and problems, according to a study prepared recently by the Kuwait Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

It added that out of this proportion, 12 per cent had stopped activities while the Ministry of Commerce and Industry was striving to rectify the positions of the other 28 per cent.

Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary for commercial affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rashed Al Mejrini said that the study which had been prepared in accordance with the recommendation contained in the joint economic committee report had pointed out that about 60 per cent of the companies were solvent. He added that the study had covered about 260 companies which were not subject to the Central Bank's control, including investment and foreign exchange companies with 31 joint stock companies and 229 closed firms.

On the other hand, Mejrini said that the ministry has held in abeyance legal action for liquidating 31 closed companies, which had stopped activities. He

said that the ministry had previously advised the board of directors of these companies to hold the general assembly meetings of their companies to discuss the relevant liquidation measures.

Meanwhile, the official said that the study aimed at evaluating positions of the companies registered in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry within the framework of the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the joint economic committee which aims at reactivating the country's economic movement. The committee has called for conducting necessary evaluation of the positions of a lot of companies and projects which suffer different problems.

The study has covered all the joint stock and closed companies numbering 52, registered at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry up to Dec 31, 1988, after the exclusion of the companies which are subject to the Central Bank's control including local banks, investment companies and some foreign exchange companies.

Mejrini added that out of 260 companies which had been covered by the ministry's study

there were 15 commercial, 70 industrial, 24 foodstuff, 21 contracting, 77 services, 10 oil, 5 insurance and 38 real estate companies.

Mejrini said that the study had covered the financial position of these companies in the light of its last three budgets 1986, 1987 and 1988, adding that the preliminary outcomes of the study had been referred to the committee for debate and evaluation in order to decide which companies are capable of continuing and those which are financially strapped. The ministry has invited the officials of the latter category to listen to their opinions and proposals aimed at setting up appropriate solutions to the financial problems facing these companies, the official said.

Mejrini added that the study disclosed that there were about 72 companies which suffer financial problems and most of them were working in the industrial and services fields. The ministry had advised these companies to debate its problems with the authorities concerned.

At the meantime, the official said that the study has disclosed that there were about 157 companies covered by the study

which indicated appropriate financial positions. These companies constitute over 60 per cent of the studied companies.

Mejrini added that the analysis of the feasibility studies of the companies covered by the study showed about 27 joint stock companies, i.e. 87 per cent of this type of companies covered by the study could continue to produce their activities, while 57 per cent of the closed companies covered by the study will be able to continue activities in different fields i.e. about 130 closed companies with about 39 poor companies. This indicates the feasibility study of the joint stock companies in general is better than that of the closed ones.

With regard to the companies listed in the bourse and covered by the study, which amounted to 24, the official said that two companies have financial problems which constitute eight per cent of these companies, adding that the remaining companies, i.e. 22, enjoy a good financial standing.

Out of the four closed companies listed in the bourse, and covered by the study, there was only one poor company which dealt in the real estate, Mejrini said.

Commendable results for IS

THE Indian School, Kuwait gained commendable results in the All-India Secondary School Examination, March 1990. Among the girls the top ranking student was Aruna Divakaran Poduval who stood first in the school with 86.6 per cent, followed by Cleona D'Mello who scored 84.6 per cent. Third among the girls was Tulika Kumari with 83.2 per cent.

Gulur V. Prasanna led the boys with a percentage of 84.4 per cent, Prashant Pratap Nair came second with 83.4 per cent and Niket Jain stood third with 83 per cent.

In the various subjects the following students were the top scorers: English — Niket Jain, 83 per cent; mathematics — Tooy Thomas, with 100 per cent; science — Arun Subramaniam, 97 per cent; French — Aruna Divakaran and Cleona D'Mello with 88 per cent, and social sciences Aruna Divakaran with 86 per cent.

Students received

Former education minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri received at the ministry's conference hall recently a delegation from the Arab school in Bonn, West Germany, on the occasion of their departure from Kuwait after appearing for the secondary education exams.

Present at the meeting were the ministry's undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodari, the cultural relations director, director of the ministry's office and public relations controller.

Cabinet

(Continued from Page 1)

Sheikh Saad affirmed that His Highness the Amir's instructions will remain the guidelines of his government, pledging to HH the Amir that utmost efforts will be exerted to realise aspirations and hopes of the nation and citizens, hoping that all will be successful in shouldering the duty of serving the dear nation under the leadership of His Highness the Amir.

Local press reports said that consultations were going on to choose the appointed members who would include a number of outgoing ministers. The reports predicted the National Council would hold its first session next Saturday. By the Amir's decree it should meet within a month after the elections.

Sheikh Saad formed his 23-member cabinet on Wednesday, the previous one having resigned after the elections. It is an established tradition in Kuwait that the Crown Prince retains the premiership.

Eleven new ministers entered the cabinet. Seven, including the

ministers of foreign affairs, defence and interior, who are traditionally members of the ruling Al Sabah family, retained their portfolios.

The key change was the switch of the Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah to the Finance Ministry. He was replaced by Rashid Salim Al Ameri, a US-educated professor of chemical engineering at the faculty of engineering, Kuwait University.

Sheikh Saad sent messages to the former ministers thanking them for their participation in the previous cabinet.

Sheikh Saad commended the former ministers for their co-operation while in office which

caused the admiration of the Amir and senior officials of the government.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister wished the former ministers success in their life and expressed confidence that they would continue their efforts for the benefit of Kuwait.

Cabinet list

Crown Prince and Prime Minister	Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah
Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister	Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah
Ministers	
Interior	Sheikh Saleh Al Sabah
Defence	Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmad Al Sabah
Oil	Rashid Salim Al Ameri
Finance	Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah
Health	Dr Abdulwahab Sulaiman Al Fouzan
Justice and Legal Affairs	Dr Abdulhadi Al Othman
Social Affairs and Labour	Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber
Information	Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah
Awqaf and Islamic Affairs	Mohammed Nasser Al Hamad
Commerce and Industry	Nasser Abdullah Al Roudhan
Education	Dr Abdullah Youssef Al Ghunaim
Higher Education	Dr Ali Abdullah Al Samirani
Public Works	Jusem Mohammed Al Mousa
Electricity and Water	Dr Hamoud Abdullah Al Ropah
Communications	Sheikh Jaber Hayat
Planning	Saleem Abdul Razak Al Mutawa
Ministers of State	
Municipal Affairs	Fahad Abdullah Al Hassawi
Housing Affairs	Yafya Fahad Al Samir
Foreign Affairs	Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ameri
Cabinet Affairs	Dr Abdulrahman Al Awadi
National Assembly Affairs	Dr Bader Jusem Al Yaqoub

Hirawi

(Continued from Page 1)

the Arab League council on assistance to Lebanon and said Kuwait, which supported that decision alongside other Arab countries had paid an installment of its commitment to Lebanon.

He added that this assistance might not be enough for the reconstruction of what the war had destroyed in Lebanon, but he hoped more when stability is restored to that sisterly country and when all its problems are resolved and life returned back to normal.

A senior French diplomat just back from a peace mission to Lebanon said today that Christian military leader Michel Aoun was now ready to talk with Hirawi.

Meanwhile, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today visited Hirawi at his residence in Al Salam Palace.

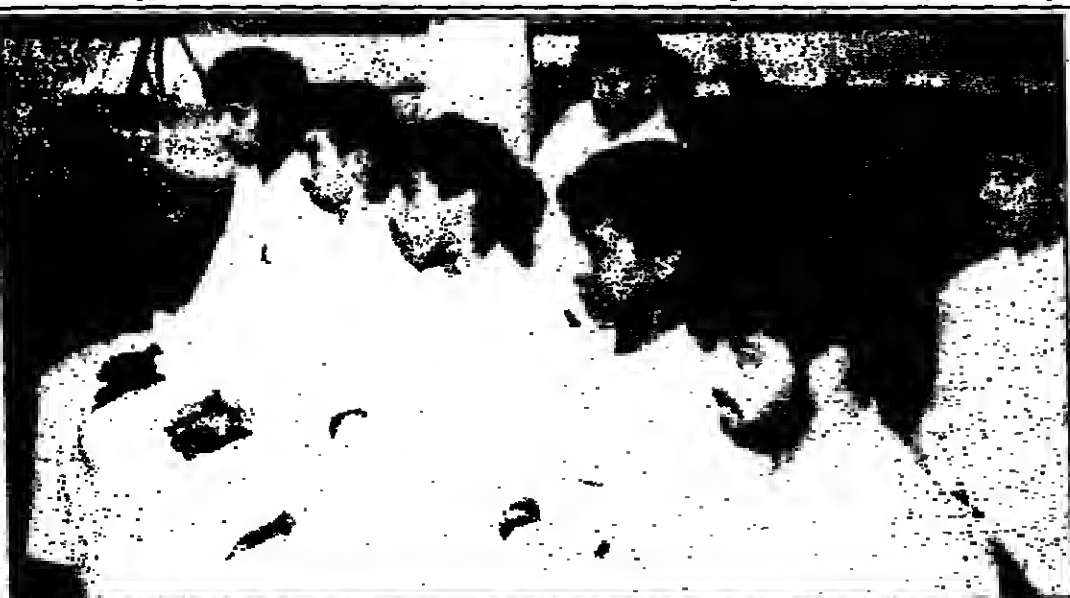
The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and head of the Mission of Honour, Dr Abdulrahman Abdullah Al Awadi.

In Paris Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Francois Scheer told journalists that Aoun, who challenges Hirawi's presidency, no longer demanded changes to last year's Arab League-brokered Taif accords.

Aoun has long called the accords worthless because they did not provide for a full withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Scheer, who also visited Damascus, said he believed Syria would agree to Aoun's joining Hirawi's government though he did not say in what capacity.

"There are openings on the side of General Aoun. He is ready to talk to the legal (Lebanese) authorities," Scheer said.



Carpentry training

Students at the Carpentry and Decor Department at the Industrial Training Centre of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training held a special function recently at the Kuluma Furniture Factory in Sabhan marking the conclusion of field training.

Present at the function were the director of the Industrial Training Centre, director-general of the Kuluma factory and senior officials from the centre. The function included the distribution of gifts.

Lebanese President Hrawi arrives

2b fund created by tripartite committee

KUWAIT, June 23, (Kuna): Lebanese President Elias Hrawi arrived here today morning. He was received at Kuwait airport by the Amir of Kuwait HH Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah and other senior officials.

This is Hrawi's first visit to Kuwait since he was elected president last November, but his third Arab tour.

The first tour was last March and took him to the Tripartite Committee's countries of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria. The committee was formed to find a settlement to the Lebanese crisis.

The second tour started on June 5 and took him to Egypt, Libya and Tunisia.

Hrawi went on a surprise visit to Syria last Wednesday where he met with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

The president is accompanied by his

Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, and a 62-member delegation of high ranking officials.

His Highness the Amir will hold a dinner banquet in honour of his visiting guest Lebanese president Elias Hrawi and the accompanying delegation tonight.

Hrawi's visit to four Arab nations is designed to solicit financial and political support for the civil war-ridden nation.

Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic, and Prime Minister Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim, are also to visit the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain to brief their rulers on Lebanon's needs to implement an Arab League peace plan intended to end the nation's 15-year-old civil war.

Hrawi's press office refused to disclose his exact travel schedule for security reasons.

The tour started shortly after the

tripartite Arab League Committee entrusted with ending the civil war announced the creation of a two-billion-dollar international fund to rebuild Lebanon.

A statement issued late Friday in Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria — whose leaders make up the committee — said the by-laws for the fund will be drawn up later. They set Sept 10 for the first meeting of its steering committee.

The fund was decided on by the Arab Summit Conference which convened in Baghdad, Iraq, last month.

An Arab summit conference allocated \$2 billion for Lebanon's reconstruction in 1979, but only \$470 million were eventually paid.

Arab governments had attributed their reluctance to give to the continuing violence in Lebanon.

The latest fund was to go along with a peace plan which was worked out by

Lebanese legislators under Arab League auspices in the Saudi resort of Taif last October.

Hrawi was elected president Nov 24 in line with the Taif pact which called for the equal distribution of power between Muslims and Christians instead of the current Christian domination of political power.

The peace plan has not been put into effect, mainly because rebel Christian Gen Michel Aoun rejected it along with Hrawi's election as president.

Aoun's rival for power among Christians in divided Lebanon, Samir Geagea of the Lebanese Forces militia, has cautiously welcomed the Taif pact and recognised Hrawi as head of state.

Like Hrawi, Aoun and Geagea are Maronites, the largest Christian community which has dominated Lebanon since independence from France in 1943.

New insurance law to strengthen market

Call to enhance premiums

THE insurance industry plays a vital role in all commercial and trade activities as it ensures the secure flow of international trade. In Kuwait, a very strong insurance market was established during the past 20 years. The local insurance market is linked with re-insurance centres in London and New York. This provides merchants and industrialists to locally obtain insurance coverage against almost all risks.

Modernisation

Until the late fifties, all insurance contracts in Kuwait were undertaken with foreign companies through a network of agencies or branches. With the rapid pace of economic growth in Kuwait, there was a more pressing need to organise laws for various fields.

In 1959, a traffic law was issued to compulsorily apply liability insurance to all vehicles. The first law regulating the working of insurance companies and agencies was issued in 1964.

As a result of rapid developments in this industry, efforts are now being directed to issue a new law to keep pace with modernisation and to close any loopholes existing in the previous law.

Speaking to a local daily, Walid Al Modhaf, general director of one of the insurance companies stated that the insurance movement in the past had produced tangible results and it had reached its zenith just prior to the Iraq-Iran war. With the onset of the war, the insurance business was chaotic and suffered severely. However, Modhaf said that the insurance sector is now improving as it has huge projects such as the Amiri Diwan project, electricity power stations and the petrochemical projects which have greatly contributed to lifting the insurance business out of the doldrums.

Restrictions

He pointed out that the new law issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry was designed to strengthen the insurance market. These conditions place certain restrictions on

profitability, unifying the system of all companies and ensuring quality services. The new law presents a more detailed view of insurance activities, and is intended to facilitate the smooth co-ordination of activities among companies, producers and consumers.

The new law also indicated the relationship between re-insurance undertaken locally and abroad. Public insurance such as fire, war, injuries, vehicles and contractors insurance occupy top positions in this field. He cited one incident where due to a fire breaking out in a factory, the loss incurred was estimated at KD one million. However, through insurance companies, the factory was soon on its feet and resumed active production.

Regarding vehicle insurance, Modhaf said that this type of insurance has a very negative impact and will escalate in the future. He called for enhancing the rate of premiums on such types of insurance and also advocated increasing punishment for reckless drivers.

Oil sector workers meet Sheikh Saad

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah received a delegation from the Kuwait oil sector workers recently.

Discussions during the interview dealt with requests of the working classes in the oil sector, and Sheikh Saad endorsed the request on the reinstatement of the annual allowance which equals 7.5 per cent of the basic salary.

A local daily has meanwhile said that the chairman of the Kuwait Workers Union Hamad Soyah and a group of the executive committee of the Oil Workers Union had earlier met with the assistant chairman of the board of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and discussed with him the remaining requests of the union. The building of a special hospital, the provision of a hazard allowance and unification of the salaries of workers in the oil sector were among the many requests.



Hajji at KPTC

THE director-general of the General Traffic Department Brigadier Abdul Hameed Hajji Abdul Raheem has met with the chairman of the board and managing director of the Kuwait Public Transport Company Abdul Wahab Al Haroun at the KPTC offices.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with proposals aimed at reducing traffic problems, and the KPTC contributions to solving these problems through raising public traffic awareness.

Brigadier Hajji Abdul Raheem then handed out certificates of appreciation to each of the KPTC board chairman and senior officials.

State to buy wheat at KD120

DIRECTOR of the General Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Sabah said that the authority will buy wheat produced in Kuwait for this year under directives from HH the Amir. He added that the authority will offer the same price as last year or KD120 for each ton of wheat.

In a statement made to a local daily, he said that HH the Amir's directives came to encourage farmers who have entered the wheat experiment from last year and as a support to this important sector in the country.

He pointed out that the number of farmers who participated in the wheat experiment this year are less than last year. Meanwhile, he stated the size of agriculture areas for the current year are bigger in area than the last year, and that production of wheat this year is bigger in size and with better quality. He expected that the third season of wheat agriculture will give better results than this year's produce. The size of the area cultivated will be bigger in the third season, Sheikh Duaij said.

No power shortage this year: MEW

Iraq water project studies complete

UNDERSECRETARY of Ministry of Electricity and Water, Abdullah Al Mnyes has said that all necessary measures have been taken in order to avoid any power cuts. Such measures are represented in conducting regular maintenance at power stations and the electrical network in the country. He stressed that the ministry deals with any faults in the electrical network as soon as they occur in order to prevent it from occurring repeatedly.

Regarding previous power cuts, Mnyes stated that the ministry takes all previous faults as errors from which the ministry should learn from. He stated that technical personnel at the ministry were able to find the reasons behind all previous electrical failures and had organised adequate solutions for such power cuts.

With respect of measures taken to support the electrical network of the country, Mnyes stated that within the framework of the ministry preparations towards supporting and implementing development plans and programmes, the ministry had established several main and secondary transformation stations in scattered parts of the country. He stated that such measures were taken to face developments and the rise in population.

He pointed out that the maximum electrical load recorded until now is 4,380 megawatts and that the maximum capacity is over 7,400 megawatts. He stated that secondary stations established in fact support the main network.

Regarding the water from Iraq project, the undersecretary said that the ministry has recently completed studies on evaluating technical personnel required for the job in addition to other technical needs for the project. Based on studies, the ministry will select consultants for the design and supervision of the project. Meanwhile, the ministry has reached an agreement with one of the local companies to carry out survey and soil research work for the project.

On the other hand, assistant undersecretary for consumers affairs, at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Ali Al Fneini stressed that the ministry has a plan to develop the process of collecting electricity bills through local banks. He added that special studies are being made to study and evaluate banks participating in the process. Such banks include, Burgan Bank, National Bank, Kuwait and the Middle East Bank, built on the results of other banks like Gulf Bank, Commercial Bank, Kuwait and Bahrain Bank, and the Kuwait Finance House will also be included in the programme.

Fneini stated that electrical disconnections will take effect only 45 days after the due date of payment.

He pointed out that the ministry has recently implemented a modern system in payments of electrical bills through ministry offices. Such system has facilitated payments through the design of screen terminals at ministry offices.

He indicated that the number of consumers re-

ceived 260,000 for electricity and 90,000 for water. He stated that the ministry has designed a plan for the rationalisation of consumption.

Water project

Meanwhile the head of the water department at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Saud Al Naser has said that the technical studies for the Iraq irrigation water supply to Kuwait project has been completed and that the financial proposals of the project are expected to be ready sometime during this month.

He told a local daily that the ministry is storing fresh water supplies up to 2,625 million gallons in implementation of its policy to provide an adequate supply of water to meet the country's emergency requirements.

He said that the Iraq irrigation water supply project will provide Kuwait with 200 million gallons per day as an initial stage, and that the ministry has of late invited a number of international consultants to co-operate with local ones to design and supervise the implementation of the project.

He added that the project technical proposals have already been considered while related financial proposals are still being submitted. He added that the ministry has already assigned the Gulf Inspection Firm to carry out the needed soil testing and land survey works which will be ready for the consultant for laying down project designs.

He also said that the Iraq fresh water supply to Kuwait will provide Kuwait with 350 million gallons per day. While a study is currently under way to co-operation with the Iraqi authorities.

He said that ministry is currently involved in studying and identifying the route of fresh water supply pipes for chalets, and that the ministry is storing fresh or brackish water supplies as stand-by source of water to use in case emergency.

He pointed out that the current storage capacity is 1,900 million gallons, and this figure will be raised up to 2,625 million gallons, whereas the current storage capacity of brackish water supply is 295 million gallons, to be increased up to 720 million to meet the rapidly growing demand for distilled water and water for household uses as well as water for landscaping projects.

Nasser stressed that the ministry has resorted to exploiting the public media optimally to further the rationalisation of water uses, and that special posters, leaflets and stickers were prepared and sports contests organised for this purpose so that people will develop a stronger sense of the importance of protecting this essential need for life.

He said that the underground water is one of the important sources of water for Kuwait due to the limited number of natural supply sources, adding that the treated waste water was the second source of water which is used for irrigation on agricultural projects, and sub-surface water which is used for landscaping and afforestation projects, with and without prior treatment.

Eid on July 2 Kaaba readied for final 10 days

MAKKAH, June 23, (AP): The governor of Makkah, Prince Majed Bin Abdul Aziz, today washed and draped the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, as the annual Muslim pilgrimage season entered its final 10 days.

The traditional ceremony was conducted by Majed on behalf of his brother King Fahd.

It was attended by members of the Arab and diplomatic corps and heads of the pilgrimage delegations already in the kingdom.

The Kaaba is a square stone structure in the courtyard of the holy mosque at Makkah. In its wall is embedded a piece of black meteorite. The structure, according to Islamic tradition was built by the Prophet Abraham in pre-Islamic days.

Muslims around the world turn their face five times a day toward Makkah.

More than half a million Muslims have already arrived and thousands more are converging on Makkah by land, sea and air in preparation for the July 1 culmination of the pilgrimage, or haj on Mount Arafat.

Sacrifice

The following dawn, the pilgrims and Muslims around the world slaughter sheep to commemorate the sacrifice of Prophet Abraham, marking the start of the Eid Al Adha, or Feast of Sacrifice.

The date for culmination of Haj was July 2 by the Islamic calendar. But today, the kingdom's Supreme Islamic Judiciary Council announced that the crescent for the new month had been sighted the previous night and the month for Zuhl-Hijja would start a day earlier.

The Kaaba was washed with perfumed water and dressed up with its new cover, known as Kiswa, brought late last week from a special factory and handed over to the guardian of the sacred house, Sheikh Assem Abdullah Al Shibi.

In the days of the Muslim Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), the Al Shibi clan were given the key to the Kaaba and made its guardians.

The Kiswa is made up of about 670 kilograms of pure silk and 150 kilograms of gold and silver. It costs about 17 million rials (\$4.5 million). The silk is dyed black. Woven on it in silver and gold thread are verses from the Quran, the holy book of Islam, especially those having the pilgrimage as their theme.

Salem for Riyadh

KUWAIT, June 23, (Kuna): Governor of the Kuwait Central Bank Sheikh Salem Abdul Azz Al Sabah left here today heading for Riyadh to attend the 14th meeting of governors of GCC monetary institutions and central banks.

The meetings will be held at the secretariat general headquarters today.

Talks will centre on issues related to central banks topped by resolutions reached at the ninth meeting of the GCC control committee of the banking system.

73.6pc success in science section

KUWAIT, June 23, (Kuna): The success rate at the school year 1989-90's final secondary stage examinations was better than last year, the Education Ministry's undersecretary announced today.

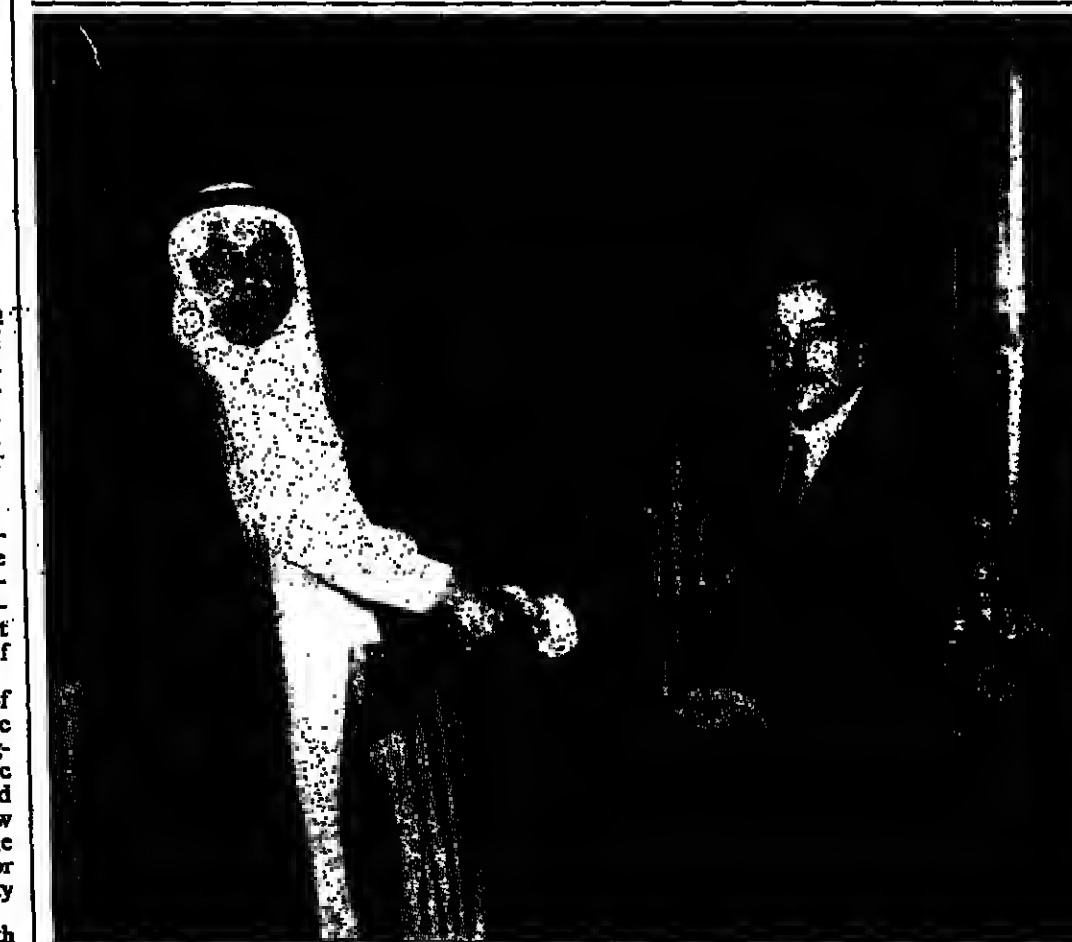
Abdul Rahman Al Khudari, in a press statement, said that students of the science section scored a 73.6 per cent success rate compared to last year's 70 per cent while the arts section's success rate of 65.4 per cent was more than last year's 62 per cent.

Khudari congratulated all students who passed

the exams especially the outstanding ones and thanked all personnel involved in correcting the examination papers.

Out of 11,993 students in the science section, 11,653 attended and 7,576 succeeded with the Kuwaiti success rate reaching 58.8 per cent and the non-Kuwaiti rate 79.9 per cent.

List of the top 50 students indicated that male students had performed better despite the fact that a female student, Mirvat Mustafa Kamel Mohammed came first with 99.5 per cent rate.



Abdullah Melhem (right), general manager of the Hyatt Regency, Riyadh receiving the award from Anwar Abdul Rahman.

Best ME hotel award for Hyatt Regency, Riyadh

THE 1989 Arab Travel Hotel of the Year Award goes to the Hyatt Regency Riyadh, a clear winner in this year's polls.

The Hyatt Regency Riyadh is not new to the top slot, having taken the prize in the fourth annual Arab Travel Awards in 1984.

Abdullah Melhem, general manager of the hotel said: "I am very honoured and pleased with our achievement. We have been working towards this goal and it is certainly a reflection of our continuous commitment towards satisfying our guests. It is very hard to reach the top, but it is even harder to remain there, and it is our aim to ensure such positioning for many years to come."

The 5-star deluxe hotel situated in the business and government district of Saudi Arabia's capital city was opened in April 1981. Major extensions of its facilities took place in 1984 to include a variety of luxurious suites and speciality restaurants.

All 405 rooms, including 83 suites, features individually controlled air-conditioning, private bath and shower, colour television with in-house movie channels and international direct dial telephone. One complete floor features the exclusive Regency Club accommodation; a hotel within a hotel concept provides guests with a level of comfort and personal attention that exceeds even the Hyatt standard of lodging excellence.

Floor

In June, 1988 a separate floor was refurbished to accommodate Hyatt Gold Passport members with an exclusive Gold Passport Lounge.

In 1989 all of the hotel's royal and diplomatic suites were completely renovated to meet the high expectations of the royal family and government delegations.

The restaurants in Hyatt Regency Riyadh are among the finest in Riyadh.

Speciality restaurants include: Shogun — Japanese restaurant, awarded best in Riyadh by Meed Magazine readers; La Galleria — Italian restaurant, Lok Kung — Chinese restaurant, Cafe Vienna — Austrian cafe.

Loulou Cafe restaurant features a Continental and Middle Eastern buffet and a-la-carte dining as well as speciality events (seafood on Monday night, Californian on Tuesday night, barbecue on Wednesday night, fish market on Thursday night, Friday brunch and prime rib beef on Saturday).

The Business Centre, fully renovated in May 1988, includes a boardroom for 12 people, full secretarial services, telex, telefax, wordprocessing, translation, Reuters screen and a comprehensive business library.

Other facilities include a well-equipped fitness centre with sauna, gymnasium, games room, outdoor swimming pool, sundeck and a jogging track.

Rent-a-car and limousine desk, gift shop and travel agent are also available in the hotel lobby.

In addition to all these guests facilities Hyatt Regency Riyadh will continue its ambitious, ongoing renovation programme. 20 business suites will be complete by September this year specifically designed to cater for the needs of long staying guests.

An additional Regency Club floor is also in the planning stage to be added in order to meet the increased demand for sub upgraded accommodations.

Plans are also under way to redesign the hotel entrance and driveway to facilitate easy access to the hotel and also enlarge the available parking space.

Hyatt Regency Riyadh is by no means complacent and Hamza Selim, director of sales said of the award: "This is indeed a prestigious award which will make us more aggressive in our approach to the market place in order to maintain this position. In such a competitive situation, attention to details, and creativeness in all areas of guest services will be our trademark in order to meet the increasing demands of discerning international travellers."

There are 155 Hyatt hotels and resorts around the world. Hyatt International Corporation and its subsidiaries operate 31 hotels and 19 resorts in 28 countries, with an additional 10 hotels under construction. Hyatt Hotels Corporation, a separate company, operates 90 hotels and 15 resorts in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

Special forms for charity

THE Islamic Dawa Organisation has prepared a special form for charity-givers wishing to contribute to its sacrifice and hand-out project for this season.

The form states the price per sheep and cattle head in US dollars according to the going prices in different African countries, and showed the address of the organisation's offices in a number of Arab countries.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Development Bank and Muaisem Slaughterhouse have finalised preparations for the distribution of sacrifices for this year, which will involve 500,000 sheep heads to be distributed to the needy and refugees in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Chad, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Gambia, Senegal, the Sudan, Syria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Guinea, Bissau, Mali, Lebanon, Egypt, Konya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger and other countries.

Hamadi in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, June 23, (Kuna): Member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and Deputy Premier Dr Saadoun Hamadi arrived here today on a brief visit, carrying a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to the UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

Round-the-clock patrols in Salmiya

COL AHMAD HASSAN SADEQ, commander of Salmiya area stressed that security patrols are available at all times during day and night. Interviewed by a local daily, he stated that most crimes reported are harassment and dud cheques. He added that all security forces and patrols are put on alert to face the probability of burglaries while people are out of their houses on summer vacations.

He indicated that so far 103 reports were received on raids absconding since the beginning of 1990. He stated that juvenile crimes don't form a large area in crime records. He stressed that security men were able to apprehend many handbag snatchers but however forces are still

batting car thieves.

He indicated that security forces cover all area commercial shops adding that one of the difficulties they face is that most shop owners don't comply with self protection procedures like installing iron windows on their shops.

Statistics indicate that security forces in the area have received so far 233 crime reports, 293 misdemeanours and 711 traffic accidents. He added that dud cheques form the highest percentage among other crimes in the area.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

TO his dog, every man is Napoleon; hence the popularity of dogs — Aldous Huxley, English author (1894-1963)

OPINION

Task before the new cabinet

WHEN HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah said on the day of the National Council that the country had passed the dangerous stage, he meant what he said. He also meant that the country had been subjected to risks and perhaps, Sheikh Saad was the dignitary to feel and most elated to see the country emerge from the dark tunnel towards light and clarity.

Perhaps, he also feels complete satisfaction along with the people of Kuwait after the declaration of the new cabinet and the spontaneous welcome the people of Kuwait accorded to the new cabinet as the cabinet of the qualitative leap into the 90's — which was promised by HH the Amir.

I am not saying this out of courtesy, as I myself am one member of this society and feel what they feel. Nor for courtesy's sake do I say that the new cabinet is the cabinet of the new Kuwait and that of the new Kuwait majority. This is the cabinet of the good silent people who held their patience and were at last rewarded.

It is for the first time in our political life that the decision has been taken by the popular majority in favour of all people. This decision is not contained by a selfish interest-oriented philosophy or by class domination. It is a pure Kuwaiti national feeling that sees only Kuwait and the total populace of Kuwait.

Kuwaitis now view the new cabinet as the means of achieving their ambitions to a prosperous future and happier days. The influence of the difficult days just passed through still lingers and they require this particular cabinet to remove its ill effects.

Now, it is time to leave the past behind and look ahead. One of the most important tasks for the future is to activate the capital circle by purging any doubts, and hesitations that have been prevailing since the Manakh crash of 1982. The Manakh crisis was accompanied with a host of proposals — all claiming to have the magic solution, although they aimed at hindering any settlement. They claimed to facilitate the solution, while in fact they actually meant to complicate the issue.

The new cabinet includes young members and new faces that have a bright opportunity to prove themselves — an opportunity that they have been waiting for quite awhile. Now it is time that the new government overturns the page of the past. It is the voice and the government of the majority.

We do not have any doubts that the regime has sensed the euphoric feelings of the people who have been given all their rights. They were true feelings expressed after the results of the National Council elections were announced.

Thus, the task before the new government, that embodies the ambitions of all Kuwaitis, is certainly big. However, we are confident that those elected will be up to the task. For the first time, a central decision-making source is evident without any branches. And for the first time, people with selfish interest are distanced from the decision-making process and will have no influence.

At the core of the big task for the government is the issue of the Kuwaiti economy which must be restored to its glorious past. The role of the local economy must now cross the boundaries of this country to the rest of the region.

The economy should utilise the Kuwaiti human resources, develop and invest it as a permanent and sole wealth for this country. It must be realised that this Kuwaiti wealth almost left its own country due to the many obstacles that were placed before it.

And at the core of the big task awaiting the new cabinet is to open the way for the elements of the silent Kuwaiti majority to play its natural role in the life cycle of the country as this majority has expressed its true feelings and stood firmly behind its regime without any selfish interests.

The calibre of the new cabinet fully suits the future requirements for the particular portfolios and this indeed reflects the great ability of those who selected the names of the cabinet. This will certainly be reflected on the speedy achievements and it will soon be discovered that the interests of the Kuwaiti people have been entrusted to very honest and capable hands.

We confidently say this, simply because the present government is the majority government, supported by the popular majority. It will not face obstacles to its work and will not look back to listen to rumours and we should remember that it is the product of the will of the Kuwaiti people.

Ahmed Al Jarallah.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1529 — First peace of Kappel ends civil war in Switzerland.
- 1535 — Holy Roman Emperor Charles V leads expedition to conquer Tunis from Barbarossa, restores the bey and completes conquest of North African coast.
- 1595 — Earl of Tyrone is proclaimed traitor for his rebellion in Ireland.
- 1793 — First republican constitution in France is adopted.
- 1812 — Napoleon Bonaparte's forces cross Niemen river and enter Russian territory.
- 1839 — Ibrahim, son of Mohammed Ali of Egypt, routs Turkish forces at Nezib.
- 1894 — France's President M.F. Sadi-Carnot is assassinated by Italian anarchist at Lyon.
- 1917 — Russia's Black Sea fleet mutinies at Sevastopol in the Crimea.
- 1920 — Greeks launch offensive in Asia Minor against Turkish nationalists.
- 1922 — Germany's Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau is slain by nationalists.
- 1931 — Soviet Union and Afghanistan sign neutrality treaty.
- 1948 — Soviet Union begins Berlin blockade, halting road and rail traffic between Berlin and West Germany, leading to start of Berlin airlift.
- 1960 — Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey dissolve Balkan alliance of 1954.
- 1978 — Yemen's president Ahmed Hussein Ghashami is assassinated in Yemen by bomb planted in an envoy's briefcase.
- 1987 — Muslim kidnappers release son of Lebanon's defense minister and his driver.
- 1988 — Rescue workers dig through mud and rocks in hope of reaching survivors of landslide that buried about 100 people in Turkish mountain village of Catak.
- 1989 — China's Communist Party replaces Zhao Ziyang party chief, accusing him of serious errors by supporting democratic demands.



File photo of a US Marine ordering captured North Koreans to raise up their hands. (Reuter wirephoto)

N-S. Korea frozen in animosity

Seoul rapprochement fruitless

SEOUL, South Korea, (UPI): South and North Korea remain frozen in animosity 40 years after they exploded into a bloody three-year conflict fanned by the cold war.

In the years since the war, the relative economic growth of the two Koreas has further divided the nations. Capitalists South Korea has become a world economic powerhouse while the communist North, retaining the traditional Korean "hermit kingdom" approach to the world, has stagnated, leaving it far behind its rival.

South Korea, encouraged by its success in improving relations with communist nations since the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics, is pushing for rapprochement with North Korea. Its efforts so far have been fruitless.

North Korean President Kim Il-Sung, who is pushing preparations to transfer his power to his son, says socialism is out of the decline and will eventually triumph.

An official North Korean news outlet recently quoted Kim as saying, "We are still on the road of (communist) revolution. Revolution is now making sound progress in our country and we cannot find any tendency of harbouring illusion about capitalism."

South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo has had better success elsewhere. On June 4, he met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in San Francisco in the first-ever meeting between the leaders of South Korea and the Soviet Union.

Roh said he and Gorbachev agreed their countries eventually will establish diplomatic relations. He also said he asked for Soviet help in getting North Korea to engage in meaningful dialogue and to increase exchanges and co-operation with the South.

Kim did not comment on the meeting, but a North Korean radio quoting an unofficial group bitterly denounced Gorbachev. Kim also reportedly recalled his ambassador from Moscow.

Seoul officials hope North Korea's economic difficulties will soon lead to better relations, with incentives such as duty-free trade between the two. North Korea could provide natural resources to the South in return for which it could get much-needed

consumer goods. South Korea is a major trading partner of the United States. During 1989 South Korea exported \$20.64 billion in goods to the United States, while imports totalled \$15.91 billion.

In 1989, South Korea's gross national product and per capita GNP reached \$169.2 billion and \$4,040 respectively. Exports and imports totalled \$62.38 billion and \$61.46 billion.

North Korea's GNP and per capita GNP stood at \$20.6 billion and \$980 at the end of 1988, according to reports published in Seoul. Its foreign trade, mostly with communist countries, is far smaller in scale than that of South Korea.

The disparity and the problems of the divided land began after World War II. Japan had annexed Korea in 1910, but after its World War II defeat in 1945, Korea was divided along the 38th parallel, with the Soviet Union occupying the North and the United States the South. Negotiations to unite the country failed and in 1948, a government was established on each side.

The Soviet Union fathered a communist government headed by Kim, a former Soviet Army officer, and provided North Korea with heavy arms. On June 25, 1950, Kim, with promised support from Soviet leader Josef Stalin, sent his troops into South Korea led by hundreds of Soviet-built tanks and backed by thousands of pieces of field artillery. The Korean War had begun.

The South Korean Army, designed by US occupying authorities as a constabulary force and armed only with light weapons, fell apart in a matter of hours. North Korean troops captured Seoul in three days.

By July 31, all of South Korea was under North Korean control except for a tiny perimeter around Pusan, a harbour city on the southeastern tip of the peninsula.

In the meantime, the United Nations Security Council passed a US resolution to send troops to the aid of South Korea. Fifteen nations joined the United States to help repel the invasion by North Korea.

By Sept 25 and with Gen. Douglas MacArthur as

the head of the UN command, US, South Korean and other UN forces pushed the invaders back to the pre-war border.

Marching northward they had captured most of North Korea by Nov 25, when 600,000 communist Chinese "volunteers" came across the Yalu river, the border between Manchuria and Korea, to save North Korea.

UN forces were forced to retreat. The front line moved back and forth until a truce was signed on July 27, 1953. A peace treaty has never been signed. The hostilities took a heavy toll. The United States spent \$20 billion in its Korean War efforts.

Recently updated US military statistics disclosed casualties list 33,629 Americans and 25,784 South Koreans killed in action, 103,284 American and 717,083 South Korean soldiers wounded, and 3,143 other UN command personnel dead and another 11,358 wounded.

The statistics also list 8,177 Americans missing in action and 389 Americans and 1,647 South Korean prisoners of war still unaccounted for.

Chinese and North Korean casualties are estimated at 200,000 and 300,000 dead and 700,000 and 220,000 wounded.

Since the end of the war, North Korea remained extremely hostile not only to South Korea but also to the United States. It has engaged in dialogue with South Korea off and on but has not really tried to reach agreement on issues including reunification.

The United States maintains 43,000 US troops in South Korea, but has announced that it will reduce that number by 7,000 by the end of 1993.

The Seoul government has warned against any further outbursts in the absence of corresponding moves by North Korea. Seoul officials say North Korea has not given up its ambition to unify the land by force.

Terming the United States "imperialist aggressors," North Korea refused until last year discuss the fate of Americans MIAs and still unaccounted-for prisoners of war.

Then this year, on May 28, North Korea returned the remains of five US soldiers killed during the Korean War. US officials said that if repeated, the goodwill gesture could lead to an improvement of relations.

Art Buchwald

Kin home for summer tragic

AFTER college is out and family ties have been renewed, there comes a time when the parent-child bond has been tested and all hell breaks loose. Then everyone decides that the idea of having the loved one home for the summer was a terrible mistake.

Most experts give the honeymoon three weeks from the moment the student was picked up at the airport to the hour the father yells at his child. "When are you going to get a job?" You can hear the confrontations all over my neighbourhood. The other day I passed John and Lynn Minna's house and heard the agonized voice of a wounded mother.

"I can do without boarders who sleep until 2 o'clock in the afternoon."

"I read all night," came a coed's voice.

"I don't need people in my house who read all night."

"I have nothing to do all long. Why should I get up early?"

"You could work and earn some money for college."

"The only jobs available in the newspaper are for Midas Muffler mechanics."

"What's wrong with that?"

"I'm studying political science. It would only confuse me."

John Minna yelled, "You could help your mother clean up the house."

The girl shouted back, "You're only saying that because I'm a woman."

John said, "That's not true. I told your brother the same thing."

"He knew you didn't mean it."

Then I heard Lynn Minna's voice. "We don't have fights here when you're in school. Just because you have two years of college doesn't mean you can run roughshod over everybody."

The daughter answered, "You wanted me to come home. I could have gone to Iris Goldstein's in Potomac if I knew it was going to be like this."

John's voice: "Why didn't you?"

Daughter: "Because she isn't there. She had a fight with her parents and she's gone home."

Lynn: "This is my house and I'm going to live down the rules."

Daughter: "You're doing exactly what Joan Crawford did to her mother."

John: "All the neighbours will hear us."

Daughter: "I hope so because then they will know how you treat college students."

Go to your room."

Daughter: "Does everyone around here talk in clichés?"

John: "How much more time do we have until she goes back?"

Lynn: "Two months, 14 days, 12 hours and three minutes."

Father: "I don't think we can last. Maybe we should go to Europe."

Daughter: "I'll be going to stay here."

Mother: "How would you know?"

I decided that it was time to break it up, so I went to their front door and knocked. Lynn Minna let me in and ushered me into the living room where John and his daughter were sitting.

Lynn said, "You know our daughter, Muffie. We're so proud of her. She's captain of the volleyball team and a joy to have at home."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

France would not change African policy

LA BAULE, France, (Reuters): French President Francois Mitterrand has pleased African leaders, uneasy at the changes sweeping Eastern Europe, by ruling out radical changes in his government's Africa policy.

Mitterrand rejected on Wednesday mounting calls that he modify France's 30-year-old policy of unconditional support for its traditional allies to speed up political reform in the continent.

France has decided to maintain its policy and continue to assist Africa whatever happens and whatever one says," Mitterrand told a Franco-African summit.

Links

France will maintain its strong economic, military and cultural links with its former African colonies, he assured the 22 heads of state gathered at this Atlantic seaside resort.

Mitterrand said the events in Eastern Europe showed Africa must accept the principles of political pluralism, press freedom, human rights and an independent judiciary.

But at the same time, he sympathised with the argument of many African leaders who say one-party regimes are better suited to their countries.

"We must not forget differences in structures, in civilisation, traditions and habits," Mitterrand said. "It is impossible to offer a prefabricated system."

He also announced token debt relief measures for four middle-income African countries to drive home his view that economic hardship was fuelling political instability on the continent.

The interest rate cuts will save Cameroon, Congo, Ivory Coast and Gabon a total of 250 million francs (\$40 million) in 1990, a small contribution to their deep economic problems.

Senegalese President Abdou Diouf called the speech "a great encouragement to us."

But African opposition groups said they were disappointed that Mitterrand did not express clearer support for their drive to establish Western-style democracy.

"To advise the heads of state to work towards democracy is meaningless because that have no such intention," said Paris-based Gabonese opposition leader Adrian Ngumah Ondo.

Demonstration Ngumah and opposition figures from other countries staged a pro-democracy demonstration at the city hall in La Baule.

Mitterrand has been under pressure to modify France's support for its African allies since the unrest in many Francophone countries under one-party rule.

These included some of France's staunchest allies in Africa such as Ivory Coast and Gabon.

A Congolese opposition leader said he was disappointed that Mitterrand said nothing about human rights abuses by African governments, despite a detailed report circulated at the summit by the London-based group Amnesty International.

Boat people plan under threat

KUALA LUMPUR, (UPI): Officials warn that Malaysia's unrelenting policy of turning away Vietnamese boat people threatens to torpedo an international refugee plan and spark a crisis in Southeast Asia.

With the United States refusing to agree to the forced repatriation of boat people who do not qualify as political refugees starting July 1, relief authorities fear a year-old agreement between countries that grant refugees first asylum and resettlement nations is in danger of collapsing.

During the past 12 months, refugee officials charge Malaysians have rebuffed at least 8,500 boat people. Now they fear other countries will follow suit.

Allegations

"What we are experiencing in this part of the world with the Vietnamese boat people could have been a contagious effect," said Thorvald Stoltenberg, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees during his first visit here since taking office in January.

The comprehensive plan of action, agreed upon last June by more than 70 countries, "is in a critical phase," Stoltenberg said. "We could face a breakdown."

The CPA stipulated that Southeast Asian countries would continue to provide shelter for all who arrive but the boat people would no longer automatically qualify for refugee status. Instead, they would be screened to determine whether they had a justifiable fear of political persecution or were simply in search of a better life in the West.

But the United States, Vietnam and the other participants never agreed on the crucial involuntary repatriation question. During a May conference in the Philippine capital of Manila, Hong Kong and the first asylum countries of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines agreed forced repatriation should begin July 1 or the United States could make arrangements for UN-administered



Boat people returning to Hong Kong

holding centres instead. "We feel the United States and Vietnam should provide an alternative if they object to non-volun-

tary repatriation of these people," said Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar.

The Southeast Asian countries have filed diplomatic protests with Vietnam and the United States. The note delivered to the US State Department warned the first asylum countries reserved the right to take unilateral action as they deem necessary to safeguard national interests, including the abandonment of temporary refuge.

The Bush administration has shown no signs of accepting forced repatriation and flatly rejected the proposed alternative of housing boat people on the island of Guam.

Stoltenberg said he is concerned pushoffs may spread.

"It is a fact that there has been a redirection of boat people in several countries," Stoltenberg noted. "That, of course, is of direct concern to me."

Malaysian officials, including Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, have denied allegations that Vietnamese were refused asylum, even after refugee groups supplied statements from victims claiming they were towed to sea for up to 36 hours after being refused permission to land.

Acknowledging that some were towed away, Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullah Fadai Che Wan said, "This was done at their request. We supplied them with food and fuel because they said they wanted to go to other countries."

Abdullah reiterated Mahathir's contention that resettlement countries like the United States, Canada, Australia and France were selecting only qualified refugees and rejecting "the disabled, unqualified arrivals," leaving them in Malaysia.

More than 13,000 refugees are packed into the main holding camp on the island of Pulau Bidong off the east coast with another 4,000 in a camp on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur.

Keep refugees from settling on occupied lands

Shevardnadze urges Israel

EAST BERLIN, June 23, (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze yesterday gave new assurances that his government would keep allowing Jews to leave the country.

But Shevardnadze urged Israel to keep the refugees from settling on the occupied West Bank or in Gaza.

"We have very good reasons to insist," he said after a two-hour meeting with US Secretary of State James Baker.

The session was held after a conference on Germany's future, attended also by the foreign ministers of Britain, France, East Germany and West Germany.

Before flying home to Moscow, the foreign minister said the Soviet Parliament would complete legislation establishing the right to

emigrate.

That would meet a precondition set by the administration of US President George Bush for lowering tariffs against Soviet products.

Baker raised the issue after Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev threatened to suspend Jewish emigration, which is now at an all-time high, if some of the refugees are settled in the lands formerly held by Jordan and Egypt.

Israel captured the Gaza Strip and West Bank of the Jordan river from Egypt and Jordan respectively during the 1967 Middle East war. The territories have been occupied by the Israeli army ever since.

Shevardnadze told reporters: "As for our practice in regard to emigration nothing has changed."

Two weeks ago, Shevardnadze gave similar

assurances to Baker during a week in Copenhagen, Denmark. But then Gorbachev raised the possibility again, as he had at the Washington summit meeting with Bush in early June.

In an unprecedented move, a Jewish official of occupied Jerusalem's city council has asked the Palestine Liberation Organisation to support plans to improve slum housing in the city's Shuafat Palestinian refugee camp.

Councillor Moshe Amirav, a former member of the ruling Likud bloc who was expelled from the rightist party for meeting PLO supporters, said improving Arab housing in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem could help turn a 30-month-old Palestinian revolt from violent protest towards political and economic activity. (Reuters)

Two weeks ago, Shevardnadze gave similar

Palestinian youths battle riot police

17-year-old shot dead in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 23, (AP): Dozens of Palestinian masked youths broke curfew to battle with riot police today after police shot a 17-year-old death in East Jerusalem's Silwan quarter.

Reinforced police squads fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse the rioters, who ran through the streets shouting "join us in the struggle."

As the violence continued, Arab witnesses said Rushdie Hafez Abu Ramuz, 57, died when police fired tear-gas canisters directly into his home.

Dr Kurd Ayman from East's Jerusalem Mukassas Hospital noted that Abu Ramuz had bronchial asthma and could have died from breathing in tear-gas in a closed room.

Police said they had no information on the incident. The riots in the hilly Silwan quarter were triggered by an earlier death of Zuhri Ibrahim Shuweiki, 17.

Officials at East Jerusalem's Mukassas Hospital said police shot Shuweiki in the head. They also reported that they treated three people for tear-gas inhalation and one for a cut on his forehead.

Jerusalem police commander Arib Bibi said that the situation was not good at all and that the curfew would not be lifted until calm was restored.

"The rules of the game that were kept up to now, have been broken," Bibi said on Israeli television. "Today, yesterday and the day before our patrols were attacked at close range. Hundreds of masked men were attacking patrols."

Police spokesman Uzi Sandori confirmed that a 17-year-old youth arrived dead at an East Jerusalem hospital after mass demonstrations in the hilly, Silwan quarter.

"It is most likely he was shot by police officers, I am going to check," Sandori added.

He said the area was placed under curfew, confining its 8,300 residents to their homes.

Israel Radio said riots in Silwan began with hundreds of masked Palestinian activists, armed with metal bars and stones, attacking a police jeep.

It said police opened fire with live ammunition after the Arabs got dangerously close.

After the curfew on Silwan was declared, many police officers were seen advancing in the streets, using smoke grenades, the radio said.

One of the injured at Mukassas, who gave his name as Mohammed, said the protesters were "throwing stones at every police car."

He said Shuweiki was among several dozen stone-throwers who attacked a police jeep when he was shot.

Angry protesters took Shuweiki's body to a funeral in Silwan, and about 1,000 Palestinians later marched in the village streets, carrying some 50 outlawed Palestinian flags.

Groups of protesters continued to throw stones at policemen, Mohammed said.

"It was the most violent demonstration in Silwan since the uprising began," he said.

"Everybody was in the streets, men, women and children."

Shuweiki was the second Palestinian to be shot to death by border police this week and the eighth to be killed in Jerusalem during the 30-month revolt against Israeli occupation.

Curfews in East Jerusalem are rare because they violate Israeli policy that Jerusalem is a united sovereign city and are opposed by city Mayor Teddy Kollek.

While most of the violence in the revolt has come in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians have regularly demonstrated in East Jerusalem.

The area was captured from Jordan along with the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel annexed the area, but most Western nations, including the United States, do not recognise the action. Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of their would-be state.

Tourists injured in Dead Sea blast

EIN GEDI, Israel, June 23, (Reuters): Two West German tourists and two Israelis were injured today when a bomb believed planted by Palestinian militants exploded at the Dead Sea resort of Ein Gedi, police said.

The bomb, concealed in a waste bin, exploded on the beach at one of Israel's leading tourist attractions which was crowded with weekend bathers and picnickers.

Police would not immediately name the injured but said one of the Israelis was a Jew, the other an Arab.

A spokeswoman at Jerusalem's Haddasah hospital said one West German and two Israelis were being treated for light to moderate wounds to the legs and lower body. The other tourist apparently received first aid at the site of the explosion.

Southern region police chief Rahamim Comfort said he was convinced that the bomb was planted by Palestinian militants.

"The shared opinion is that this was a terrorist attack. Based on the material we found at the scene, fragments of the bomb, this tells us," he said.

Police blocked roads leading from Ein Gedi and arrested 37 Arab suspects.

In sweltering desert heat police combed the area for more bombs while the suspects were detained under a tree.

Ein Gedi, 1,305 feet (398 metres) below sea level, lies at the lowest point on earth and is popular with visitors who bathe in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea.

It is three miles (4.5 km) south of the occupied West Bank where a Palestinian revolt against Israeli rule has raged for the past 30 months, and six miles (nine km) west of the Jordanian border.

Second chem plant not yet built: Italians

ROME, June 23, (AP): Sources in Italian secret services said that Libya is planning a new chemical weapons factory, but disagreed with US reports that it was already under construction, on Italian news agency reported.

The unidentified sources quoted by Ansa said that only a few sheds were at the site thought to be the location of the new factory.

The sheds in the Sabhah region, more than 400 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of Tripoli, contained material moved from a plant at Raika following a fire there in March, the sources said, according to Ansa.

US government officials said earlier this month that Libya may be building a new chemical weapons plant at a remote underground location hundreds of miles south of Tripoli.



Palestinians demonstrate

A group of Palestinians from the occupied Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan demonstrate June 22 just minutes before police entered the area firing teargas after masked youths barricaded roads and confronted police. Hundreds of residents of Silwan marched towards police lines wearing masks carrying Palestinian flags and chanting "PLO Israel No." (Reuters wirephoto)

Libya expects raid

Israel says nonsense

CAIRO, June 23, (Reuters): The Libyan news agency Jana said today Tripoli expected Israel to attack it within 48 hours, a charge described as nonsense by the Jewish state.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (Mena) reported Jana quoting Libyan security sources as saying that "Israelis are planning an attack against Libya over the next 48 hours."

In Jerusalem, Israeli government spokesman Yossi Olmert told Reuters today: "It's absolute nonsense. It is a continuation of the Libyan war-mongering, and has no foundation whatsoever."

Mena, reporting in a brief dispatch from Tripoli, quoted the Libyan sources as saying the plan had been uncovered and warned that if the attack occurred "its perpetrators would pay a high price for it."

Jana has said several times this week that Israel was planning to attack Libya.

The Israeli army has said a May 30 two-pronged attack on crowded beaches near Tel Aviv by sea-borne Palestinian commandos was launched from the Libyan port of Benghazi.

A Foreign Ministry statement said the head of the ministry's political department, Pierre-Yves Simonin told the Iranian diplomat that the government would examine "the accusations against certain official Iranian services and will, if necessary, take the measures which are required in such cases."

The acting head of the Iranian embassy in Bern, Aghazari Darmani, was summoned to the Swiss Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon to be told of official "strong concern."

A Foreign Ministry statement said the head of the ministry's political department, Pierre-Yves Simonin told the Iranian diplomat that the government would examine "the accusations against certain official Iranian services and will, if necessary, take the measures which are required in such cases."

several official Iranian services are directly involved in the assassination.

The police commune said the probe also produced evidence of a "close connection" with several other slayings in Europe in recent years, including one of an Iranian defector in Geneva in August 1987.

The commune, signed by examining magistrate Roger Chatelain of Lausanne, said a total of 13 people were involved in what it termed a "minutely prepared execution." All were travelling with Iranian service passports, marked "on mission," according to the commune.



Retreat from tear-gas

A photographer and Israeli Border Police retreat from tear-gas June 22 which was fired into the occupied Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan after hundreds of residents marched in protest of a Palestinian killed June 22. The area was

heavily tear-gassed following clashes between Israeli troops and stone-throwing masked youths carrying Palestinian flags, building roadblocks and chanting "PLO, Israel No." (Reuters wirephoto)

Israel won't wait for US

Seeking non-PLO Palestinians for talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 23, (AP): Israel will not wait for US help in arranging Middle East peace talks but will try on its own to find Palestinians willing to negotiate without the blessing of the PLO, officials said yesterday.

All such efforts have failed in the past, and prominent Palestinians say the new quest is doomed without the approval of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, a top policy adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said Israel was not dependent on the United States to arrange a dialogue with Palestinians.

"We do not need to wait for mediation. We will try to reach out to Palestinians," he told the Associated Press. "We will not rely on one channel to try to do things that can be done by Israel."

The effort by Israel's new right-wing cabinet comes after the last government collapsed when its

liberal and conservative members split over accepting US proposals for opening Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

Secretary of State James Baker wanted to include Palestinians with Jerusalem links or those deported by Israel as a compromise with PLO demands for having diaspora Palestinians in the delegation. But Shamir said this amounted to indirect PLO control.

Ben-Aharon disputed Baker's statement Thursday that any dialogue needed "PLO acquiescence."

"We are going to make a determined effort to convince our Palestinians here that the PLO option is not available," he said. "We have been seeking peace for 42 years, and no one has come forward. It's a long haul, but there is no alternative."

Palestinian sources said Defence Minister Moshe Arens had already sought to arrange meetings with influential Palestinians to explore the prospects of a formal dialogue. But most efforts to

even talk about talks have failed.

Arens spokesman Dan Naveh said the goal of such talks was making progress toward Israel's proposal to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He refused to say if Arens had succeeded in arranging any meetings but denied Palestinian claims that he was refused by Haim Hanoun, the mayor of the West Bank town of Tulkerem.

Mansur Al Shawwa, a Gaza businessman, said he met with Brig. Gen. Anich Ramot, head of the army-run government in Gaza.

"He told me that Israel is working towards building up a new generation of Palestinians who are willing to talk with Israel without any okay from the PLO," he said.

Al Shawwa said he might agree to meet Shamir or Arens but did not believe Israel would find much support among Gaza's 750,000 Palestinians.

Peace depends on Arabs: Arens

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 23, (AP): Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday that a peace agreement with the Palestinians would depend on "normalisation" of relations with neighbouring Arab states.

"It is clear to Israel and I hope also to the US that the peace process obligates not only advancing toward an agreement with the Palestinians but advancing toward normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab states," Arens said in an interview on Israeli television.

"I need to stress that these two things must go hand-in-hand," Arens added.

Arens was responding to the preceding television interview with former US ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis.

Lewis, ambassador from 1977 to 1985, warned that with the lack of a viable peace process Middle East tensions could easily escalate into violence. He said the US administration was frustrated with Israel's rejection of the Baker plan originally initiated by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Shamir's plan outlined Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo leading to elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Secretary of State James Baker III wanted to include Palestinians with Jerusalem links or those deported by Israel as a compromise with PLO demands for having diaspora Palestinians participate in the Cairo talks. But Shamir said this amounted to indirect PLO control.

"There is an enormous feeling I think in the administration now, that it is up to Israel to come up with some alternative path toward peace, having blocked the one which we had worked on with them for so many months," Lewis said.

"I really feel that it is very important that no one underestimate the potential for escalating the call it crisis, between our two governments," Lewis added.



22 killed in bus crash

An Egyptian farmer looks sadly at the wreckage of a transport bus that was destroyed when it hit trees near the town of Ayyat about 80 km south of Cairo June 22. Twenty-two people were killed and 16 other injured in the crash. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hoss lauds global fund for Lebanon

Arab panel seeks EEC help

BEIRUT, June 23, (Kuna): Lebanese Premier Salim Al Hoss has welcomed an Arab proposal on establishing an international fund for the aid of Lebanon.

The Lebanese national agency for information quoted Al Hoss as saying today: "This step once more asserts Arab solidarity with Lebanon in its efforts toward pushing forward peace, reconciliation and reconstruction."

Leaders of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon, King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, King Hassan II of Morocco and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria had issued a statement in which they proposed this international fund with a capital of \$1 billion.

Al Hoss also valued highly the role played by the three Arab leaders to restore the situation in his country back to normal.

Meanwhile, the Arab Tripartite ministerial committee concluded a day of talks in the Western French resort of "La Baule," calling on the European Economic Community to contribute to restoring peace and the reconstruction of Lebanon.

The committee, which comprises foreign ministers Prince Saud Al Faisal of Saudi Arabia, Algeria's Ahmad Al Ghazali and Abdullatif Al Filali of Morocco, issued a statement requesting Europe to exert further efforts to restore peace in Lebanon and to assist it in its reconstruction efforts.

The statement maintained that the committee discussed these demands during a meeting earlier this week with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis and Pope John Paul II in Rome.

Iran arms sales: 40 indicted in Venice

VENICE, June 23, (AP): A judge yesterday indicted 40 people, including government officials and the former chairman of an Italian bank, for alleged involvement in illegal arms sales to Iran, the news agency Ansa reported.

Also among those charged were the managing director of the French arms maker Luchair SA and nine Iranians, the report said.

State prosecutor Felice Casson acted after an investigating magistrate recommended the indictments at the end of the three-year investigation.

The agency said that those charged included Nerio Nesi, who resigned as chairman of the Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro last year following a scandal involving irregular loans to Iraq.

Also indicted were several other former top officials of the bank, Italy's largest, according to the Ansa report.

BNL is alleged to have financed the sale of more than \$130 million worth of weapons to Iran, breaking an arms embargo established during the Iran-Iraq war.

The indictment also named the president of the government's inter-ministerial committee, Umberto Toffano, and its six members, who represent the Italian military and security agencies, the dispatch said.

Sweden to expel five Palestinians

STOCKHOLM, June 23, (Reuters): Sweden has decided to expel five Palestinians said by security police to have links with others convicted of bomb attacks against American and Jewish targets in Europe.

In line with Swedish procedure, government officials announced the decision without naming the five or listing the evidence against them.

Security sources however said four of the Palestinians belonged to the same family as a man sentenced to life imprisonment in Sweden last December for his part in a series of bomb attacks in Europe in 1985.

Two of those being expelled were also traced back to an apartment in Neuss, West Germany, where barometric detonators were discovered in a police raid in October, 1988, they added.

Swiss police claim Iranian agents were 'directly' involved in Rajavi assassination

BERN, June 23, (AP): Swiss police said yesterday they have evidence that Iranian agents were involved in the assassination last April of Dr Kazem Rajavi, a prominent Iranian oppositionist who had obtained political asylum in Switzerland.

Rajavi, of the Iraq-based Mujahadeen Khalq resistance movement and a brother of its leader, was killed instantly by a burst of sub-machine-gun when his car was blocked by another near his house outside Geneva April 24.

A police commune said the results obtained so far in the investigation "allow to state that one or

several official Iranian services are directly involved in the assassination."

The acting head of the Iranian embassy in Bern, Aghazari Darmani, was summoned to the Swiss Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon to be told of official "strong concern."

A Foreign Ministry statement said the head of the ministry's political department, Pierre-Yves Simonin told the Iranian diplomat that the government would examine "the accusations against certain official Iranian services and will, if necessary, take the measures which are required in such cases."

The police commune said the probe also produced evidence of a "close connection" with several other slayings in Europe in recent years, including one of an Iranian defector in Geneva in August 1987.

The commune, signed by examining magistrate Roger Chatelain of Lausanne, said a total of 13 people were involved in what it termed a "minutely prepared execution." All were travelling with Iranian service passports, marked "on mission," according to the commune.

In preparation, commandos made at least three trips to Switzerland starting last October, it added. During the two weeks preceding the assassination, Rajavi was under constant observation, the commune said.

Warrants for the arrest of all 13 suspects have been circulated in Switzerland and abroad, it said. The commune gave only the names of two, Yadhollah Samadi and Mohammed Rezvani. It said that the precise individual part each of the 13 had in the assassination could not be established.

Focus



A father holds the body of his child killed in the earthquake at the Gilan province. (Reuter wirephoto)

Black flags fly 500,000 homeless

QAZVIN, Iran, June 23. (Reuter): Black flags fly over shattered villages and survivors dig through the ruins of mud brick homes across a devastated region where some 15,000 people are believed to have died in Iran's worst earthquake.

Buildings sent to help move at a crawl along dusty, twisting roads. Many villages are still cut off by landslides.

Some 500,000 people are homeless and 100,000 injured. Tremors keep shaking the quake zone and those who still have a roof are afraid to sleep under it.

"It is like a small country that must be rebuilt from scratch," President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told Iranian television after a helicopter flight over the disaster area on Friday.

By Friday afternoon the tally of known dead was 28,950 and unknown numbers of living and dead still lay in the ruins. The Foreign Ministry told the United Nations 100,000 were injured and the death toll was likely to reach 35,000.

The official news agency Irna said 500,000 were homeless.

Offers of help flowed from many countries including the United States—

the 'Great Satan' to Iranians—since Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution overthrew the pro-American monarchy in 1979.

Israel, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, all enemies, also offered aid.

A US official in Washington told Reuters that the American offer was accepted. Israel's was rejected.

President Rafsanjani, visiting the town of Roudbar, where at least 6,000 died, said the catastrophe was so great that Iran would have to have outside help.

Iran said the survivors needed medicine, tents, blankets and food and the biggest help for rescue efforts would be trucks, cranes and bulldozers.

Many thousands of Iranians donated blood and officials said none was needed from abroad. Nor were doctors and technical experts, although some hurried in from Western Europe and the Soviet Union and were put to work.

The quake zone covers much of Gilan province, at the southwest corner of the Caspian Sea, and fertile Zanjan province.

Around Qazvin, an industrial city in Zanjan 150 km (90 miles) northwest of Tehran, 780 people were killed. Many buildings were still standing but people

camped in the streets, afraid to go indoors.

"Everyone knows that another big shock will come within 72 hours," a young man explained.

Northwest of Qazvin in the Tarem valley, villages lay in ruins and irrigation systems were shattered, leaving surviving farmers fearful for their crops.

Iranian television showed doctors tending victims on stretchers in a makeshift hospital in a parking lot.

Another film showed workers uncovering the bald head of a surviving man. They used a hypodermic syringe to pass water from a canteen to his mouth before digging further.

A man in roudbar told Iranian television "a rock as big as a building" crashed into his home, killing four of his six children.

Rescue workers say the number of victims being found alive has dropped sharply and by Friday afternoon more and more of those reached by diggers were dead.

An old man saved from a ruined mud house near Tarem told his rescuers: "If you had come sooner you could have saved my daughter-in-law too. I was talking to her until a few hours ago."



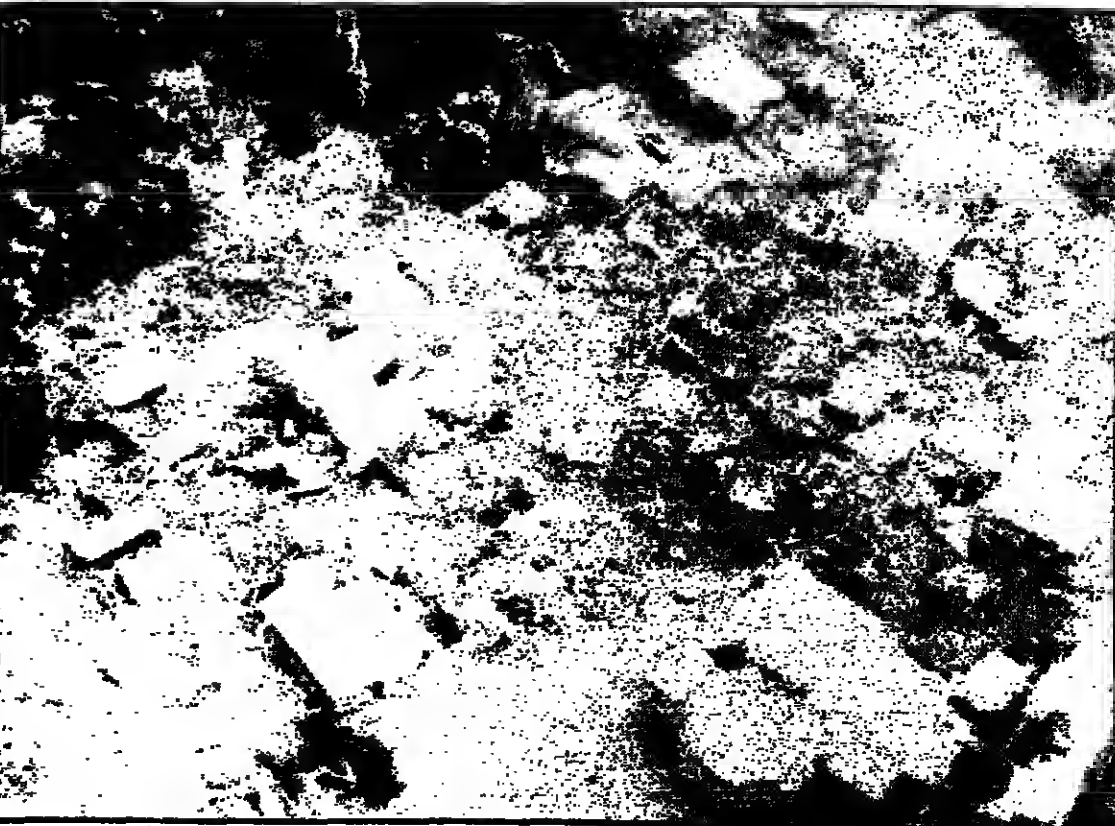
An Iranian boy donates his toy to help survivors in front of the Red Crescent centre in Tehran. (Reuter wirephoto)



A woman covers the lifeless body of a child. (Reuter wirephoto)



Homeless residents of Manjil sit among ruins. (Reuter wirephoto)



An aerial view of devastation caused by the earthquake. (Reuter wirephoto)

Help flows in to

CAIRO, June 23. (Agencies): Iran, at odds with Egypt for more than a decade, has rejected an Egyptian offer to send a planeload of medical supplies for victims of Thursday's big earthquake. Egyptian government sources said today.

"The plane was fully loaded but orders came to halt the operation," a Defence Ministry source said. "However, we are still hoping for a positive response."

A source at the Foreign Ministry said Iran rejected medical supplies saying it needed heavy equipment. Egypt's planned aid was mainly medicine, the source added.

Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's UN ambassador, told British television yesterday foreign assistance was welcome except from Israel or South Africa.

President Hosni Mubarak sent condolences to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, his first direct contact with the Iranian leader.

Iran cut relations with Egypt after the fall of the monarchy in 1979. The Shah was given asylum in Egypt and died in Cairo.

"I received with deep grief and sorrow news of the terrible earthquake that hit your country and resulted in heavy losses," Mubarak cabled.

Mubarak also took the opportunity to urge Rafsanjani towards permanent peace with Baghdad following the 1980-88 Gulf war, in which Egypt supported Iraq.

"We pray to God Almighty to protect the brotherly Iranian people... to live with other nations in the region in security, peace, stability and neighbourliness away from the dangers of war, violence and destruction," Mubarak said.

Iran said today it welcomed international relief aid for the victims of Thursday's earthquake.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Samadi denied what he said were foreign media reports that Iran was not allowing international medical and relief teams into the stricken areas in the northwestern provinces of Gilan and Zanjan.

He told the national news agency Irna that Iran welcomed relief teams, equipment, hospital supplies and medicine.

"In view of the devastation wrought by the earthquake," Iran welcomes international assistance," Samadi was quoted as saying.

Irna said a 20-member relief team from Soviet Azerbaijan and three French medical teams comprising 200 personnel were operating in Gilan.

Relief work has been pouring into the country since the quake hit the mountainous area.

United States: The US government last night prepared to airlift blankets, tents and other items for earthquake victims in Iran after being informed by Iranian authorities that American assistance would be welcome.

The relief items were donated through the American Red Cross. Iran had informed the US State Department that it was willing to accept contributions from the agency or similar private organizations, officials said.

The State Department said 10 goods, valued at \$225,000, were to flow via charter from a US government logistics base near Pisa, Italy. The charter cost was listed as \$66,000.

Earthquake

Hossein Zeineddin, a second secretary with Iran's UN mission in New York, said late yesterday that according to the latest estimates from the region, at least 40,000 people were killed and 100,000 were injured.

The toll surpassed a quake that killed 25,000 people in nearby Soviet Armenia in December 1988, and a quake in Iran in 1978 that also killed 25,000.

The quake's toll was the highest since July 28, 1976, when an estimated 200,000 people were killed in China by a quake measuring 7.8-8.2 on the Richter scale.

The quake measured 7.3 to 7.7 on the Richter scale, according to geological stations in Tehran, Edinburgh, Scotland, and Golden, Colorado.

State-run television, monitored in Cyprus, showed injured people lying on the ground in long rows with health workers passing back and forth with medication as flies swarmed around.

A bottle feeding an intravenous drip hung from a tree.

A woman wailed loudly in pain.

A young boy with a badly swollen face stared blankly.

Big army helicopters landed in a field and picked up the injured on stretchers while a woman in the traditional head-to-toe black chador carried a tiny child in a bundle of cloth.

The television showed numerous bodies wrapped in white shrouds, often with grieving women wailing nearby. Dozens of other bodies, many wrapped in carpets, lay unclaimed on the verge of a road.



A woman gestures in despair while another sits on the ground with a child in the devastated area in Iran. (Reuter wirephoto)

A gray-haired man scratched lifted chunks of concrete from a building with the help of younger men, then burst into tears when a body was uncovered, presumably a family member.

One woman, her home reduced to little more than a pile of wooden planks, rescued a small drawer-full of clothes, apparently the only salvageable possessions.

One shot from a helicopter showed a fissure in a plowed field which gaped open at least three yards (metres) at its widest point, was several yards (metres) deep and hundreds of yards (metres) long.

Irna said "with the lapse of time," hope was fading that more survivors could be found alive under the rubble. Numerous mountain villages were still cut off because landslides blocked roads.

A 205-member French relief team arrived in Iran last night, and at least 200 relief workers from the Soviet Union also travelled to the afflicted region, Irna reported.

The government health department sent 100 teams into the area to prevent the outbreak of contagious diseases. Irna said citizens had donated 12,000 "bags" of blood and would not

need any blood from foreign countries.

Iran, at odds with the United States since the 1979 seizure of hostages at the US embassy in Tehran, said yesterday that it would welcome relief from the American Red Cross and other US humanitarian groups. The two nations have no diplomatic ties.

"We want to be helpful without regard for our political differences with Iran," said Richard Boucher, deputy State Department spokesman in Washington.

The United States sent a message of condolence and expressed willingness to provide

(Continued from Page 1)

humanitarian aid. Israel, which also has no relations with Iran, did the same.

Iran is still discouraging foreign rescue workers from coming to help in the aftermath of Thursday's earthquake, the United Nations said today.

"Offers of further search dogs and search and rescue teams and medical teams have been discouraged," the UN Disaster and Relief Organisation (Undro) said in a statement today based on information from UN officials in Tehran.

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, acting on information received from the Iranian Red Crescent Society, said that foreign relief workers were not needed and would not be allowed into the disaster area.

Till mid-afternoon today, helicopters of Havaruz, the army airborne division, had flown more than 200 sorties between Tehran and Zanjan, some 175 miles (280 km) northwest of Tehran, carrying relief supplies out and injured people in.

Military and civilian aircraft flew hundreds of sorties from Gilan province to Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashad and other major cities.

Irna said tons of medical and other material assistance from abroad had either been flown in or were due to arrive in Iran over the next few hours from dozens of countries around the globe.

Besides its 200-member relief team, France was sending in 18 specially-trained dogs to find victims still buried under the debris, along with 35 tons of equipment to help searchers.



The lifeless bodies of children lie in front of their homes in Ganjeh. (Reuter wirephoto)



An aerial view of the devastation in Gilan province. (Reuter wirephoto)

Survivors mourn 'Allahu Akbar'

TAREM VALLEY, Iran, June 23. (Reuter): The man was about 20. The shrouded corpse he stroked was his niece and nephew.

"Allahu Akbar," he moaned, beating the top of his head softly with the palm of his hand. His eyes were glazed with grief.

"Allahu Akbar (God is Great)," echoed a 12-year-old boy squatting at his side.

The corpses lay in a line of eight beside a country road running through this green valley dotted with olive trees in the Alborz mountains.

The misery of the two mourners is shared by some 500,000 homeless survivors across the northwest Iranian provinces of Zanjan and Gilan, where Thursday morning's earthquake is believed to have killed 35,000 people.

The quake flattened mud brick villages and felled new concrete buildings from the Caspian Sea coast to the Qazvin plain 150 km (90 miles) inland.

Morteza Mousavi, a Revolutionary Guard and war veteran, was sleeping in the Tarem Valley village of Ab-bar when the disaster struck.

"I was awakened by a thundering noise and

jumped out of a second floor window," he told Reuters.

"The earth was whistling. It reminded me of the sound of an incoming mortar bomb." His immediate family survived but he lost 22 relatives.

Schoolteacher Ahmad Shabani, 23, was in Zanjan, 50 km (30 miles) southwest.

"It was like Ashura," he said, referring to the festival at which Shi'ite Muslims recall the martyrdom of Hussein, grandson of the Holy Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), with processions of wailing mourners.

"Shouts of 'O Hussein' rose in the dark," he recalled.

When he reached Tarem two hours after the shock he found both parents and a sister dead.

Thousands of bodies still lie in the ruins. Some villages in the Tarem valley, 250 km (160 miles) northwest of Tehran, have not been reached. No one knows how many of their people may be dead or still buried alive.

Help comes slowly on roads blocked by landslides and packed with cars, trucks, bulldozers and walking survivors.

"They are starting by checking the needs of the areas. Our second team of 38 people will follow by road," Vivarie told French radio.

Germany: As West Germany began to fly relief supplies to Iranian earthquake areas today, a Bonn aid official said conditions imposed by the Tehran authorities were disadvantageous to the victims.

The Defence Ministry said a military aircraft would leave for Tehran today with 200 tents and 3,200 blankets, to be followed by 100 tonnes of similar supplies on Monday.

Two operating teams equipped with a field hospital, food and water purifying equipment were due to leave on Sunday.

"We were not able to become as active as we would have liked with our offer of immediate help," relief official Juergen Kronenberger said in a radio interview.

"The conditions we have had to accept are certainly to the disadvantage of the victims."

Jordan: Jordan's Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Amman will send a medical team and a plane loaded with medicine to Tehran.

He told a tower house of parliament session he grieved for the Iranian victims of the huge earthquake which hit northwest Iran on Thursday.

The 80-seat member house observed a minute's silence to mourn the quake victims and decided to send a cable of condolences to Iran's house Speaker Mehdi Karubi.

Badran, following the footsteps of King Hussein, sent a message of sympathy to Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the state-run news agency Petra said.

Red Cross: Eighteen national Red Cross societies have responded to an emergency appeal for Iranian earthquake victims, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said.

In addition to massive amounts of relief in kind, Red Cross societies and some governments had donated a total of six million Swiss francs (\$4.3 million).

The Iranian Red Crescent Society has sent a priority list of needs of medicine, tents and blankets, food, transport and heavy equipment like cranes and bulldozers.

One relief official in Geneva said many rescue workers were already en route to Iran and 400 have now arrived in Tehran. It was not certain whether the Iranian authorities would send them straight home or decide to make use of them.

The league said that the Red Cross societies that have responded so far to its appeal — which was for eight million francs (\$5.7 million) plus

relief in kind — are from: Austria, Belgium, Britain, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and West Germany.

Cyprus: Cyprus offered to send medicine, doctors and nurses to help an international relief operation in earthquake stricken northwest Iran.

Cypriot Health Minister Panikos Papageorgiou contacted the Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Nicosia, Mohammad Karshenas, to express sympathy for the victims of the quake, the Cyprus news agency CNA reported.

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia, setting aside political differences with Iran, has expressed sorrow over the earthquake disaster and offered to extend assistance to the victims.

An official statement distributed late Friday by the Saudi Press Agency said that the kingdom followed with "deep sorrow" the news of the earthquake which caused tremendous human and material loss to the "sons of the Iranian Muslim nation."

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia... declares its readiness to help in extending assistance to those harmed by the tragedy, wishing to help ease the pain of the afflicted from among the sons of the Iranian Muslim nation."

added the statement.

Israel: Foreign Minister David Levy offered to send humanitarian relief to Iran to search for trapped survivors.

"Israel is very sorry for the grave natural disaster in Iran and is prepared to give the Iranians immediate aid as it has done for various other nations," Eliza Goren, Levy's spokeswoman said.

Goren said Levy made the offer through the League of International Red Cross for humanitarian reasons only.

Dr Mark Heller, a top researcher at the Jaffa Centre for Strategic Studies, said no one really expected the offer to be accepted this time.

"I suspect that this is an attempt to demonstrate to the Iranians that Israel has no intrinsic hostility to Iran," Heller said. "But I don't think that anyone seriously expects that the Iranian government will accept."

United Nations: UN disaster relief co-ordinator M'Bama Essafi was appointed to be the UN secretary-general's special representative for the emergency in northern Iran.

Essafi, a Tunisian national based in Geneva, will have the task of ensuring that the entire UN system supports relief efforts under way.

Spain: Spain said it would send medical aid and other supplies to Iran to help relieve the plight of people made homeless by a massive earthquake.

Spanish relief agencies will send medicines, food, tents, blankets and lighting equipment worth 30 million pesetas (\$300,000), a government official said.

The Defence Ministry has also offered to send a field hospital on board a military aircraft.

Libya: Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi sent a message of condolences to the president of Iran following the devastating earthquake, the official Libyan news agency Jana reported today.

Pope: Pope John Paul II was greatly saddened by the tragic earthquake which struck Iran and has donated personal funds to help victims of the disaster, the Vatican said. Spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls did not specify the amount but in the past the Pope has sent as much as \$100,000 for disaster relief. He donated that amount after the 1988 earthquake in Soviet Armenia.

Navarro told reporters the money, from personal sums at the pontiff's disposal, would be channelled through Caritas, a Vatican agency which co-ordinates the Roman Catholic church's charity and relief efforts.

In a telegram sent in the Pope's name to the Vatican's ambassador in Tehran, the pontiff called for international solidarity to help the survivors.

The **ITALIAN** Red Cross set up two special bank accounts to collect funds from the public for quake relief and was sending tents, blankets, medicine and clothing to stricken areas.

Five sniffer dog units from northern Italy trained to find people under rubble were due to leave for Tehran following a request from the Iranian consul in Milan.

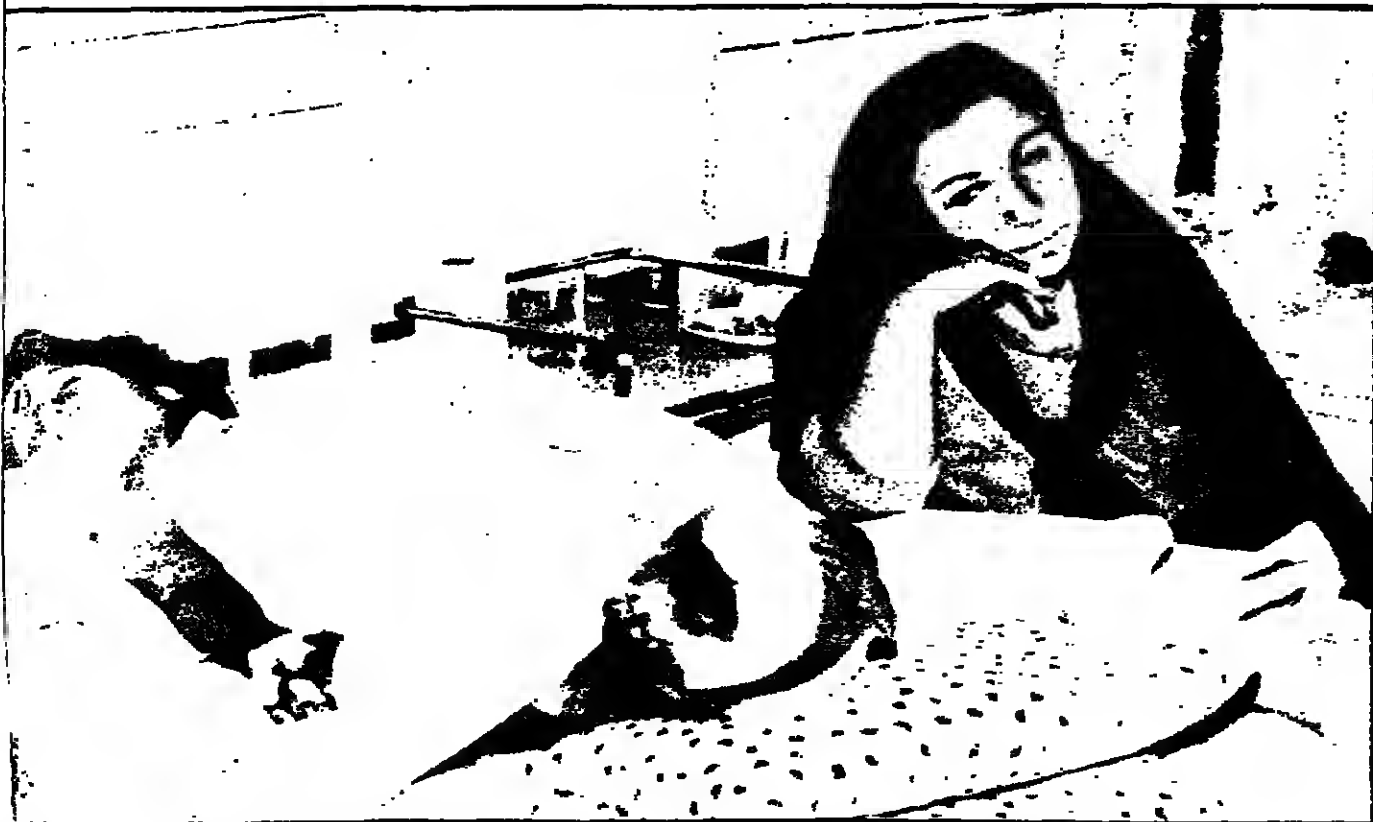
Syria: Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani today received visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara, who carries a message from President Hafez Assad. Radio Tehran quoted Al Shara as saying that he conveys the condolences of the Syrian people and government on the devastating earthquake.



Rafsanjani (2nd right) inspects the damage of Tarem Olya in Gilan. (Reuter wirephoto)



French soldiers and rescuers board an airliner at Marseille airport on their way to Iran. (Reuter wirephoto)



A rescued 8-year-old Iranian girl lies in a hospital as her aunt sits nearby. (Reuter wirephoto)

ease pain

AROUND TOWN



Musical evening

A musical evening was recently held at the home of Indian Second Secretary S.M. Mathur. The event was held before his departure to India. Performers included Edwin Dass, Charlie Dass, Laxmi Raju, Zaheer Khidkar, Uzma Saeed, Suneeta, Mrs and Mr Mathur, Sharqa and Gurucharan Singh. The programme was composed by Noor Parkar. Picture shows (above and left): some of the guests. (Right): one of the performers.



Donation

The General Manager of Kuwait International Hotel gets on a bicycle to hand over a cheque for KD100 to his owner Benjamin Dodd who together with Steven Locke is cycling to the Far East to raise money for a school in Cambodia. They are seen with Nusrat Islam, the media manager at the Kuwait International which was the first Kuwaiti company to respond to the Englishmen's appeal for donations.

Fun-filled outing

The management of Kuwait Sheraton Hotel recently organised a day-out for their long-stay guests to Failaka Island. The guests enjoyed a fun-filled outing. Such events are often held for guests to make them feel at home. Above: the guests who went on the outing.



Laxmi Raju



Shehnaz Rahman on stage with the orchestra in the background.



Reshmi, Arif and Anwar on stage.

Artists' welcome

The Funkar Arts Group recently held a reception in honour of the Indian film director Moen Amjad, who is on a private visit to Kuwait. A variety show was also held. Some of those who participated in the programme includes singers Charlie Dass, Laxmi Raju, Shehnaz Rahman, Valencia Sylvia, Rosebud, Abdul Jalil, Robert, Qamruddin, Iqbal and Dayal Singh. They were supported by the Edwin Dass orchestra.

Arif Kazi presented a skit. Reshmi Sharma, Anwar Kadri and Kazi performed.

Valencia Sylvia, Rosebud, Laxmi, Angelic, Evon and Anwar danced to the sound of popular Hindi film music.

The chief guest was Indian Ambassador A.K. Budhiraja.



Valencia Sylvia



Qamruddin



(L-R) Businessman Saleh Burood, Moen Amjad, Budhiraja, Abdul Khaliq and Edwin Dass at the reception

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
- 9.40 Ifrah Ya Simsim
- 10.10 Good Morning
- 10.30 Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial; featuring Majdi Wahba, Karima Mukhtar, Madiha Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami
- 11.15 News Summary
- 12.00 Hamouh: Arabic serial; part 1; featuring Samir Fahad, Ahmad Al Qawasimi, Antonette Najeeb
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 World News via Satellite
- 2.00 Sanavar: cartoons serial
- 2.15 Saif Haar: Gulf serial; featuring Saleh Bin Za'al Al Faris, Saud Al Darmiki, Amina Abdul Rasool
- 3.30 Alif Laila Wa Laila
- 4.00 English feature film
- 5.30 Adventures: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Kana Wa Ma Kana: children's programme
- 7.30 Agricultural Magazine
- 8.00 Diwanat Shuara Al Nabii: poetry session
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Uyouun Al Akhreen: Arabic serial; featuring Badi, Abu Bakr Ezzat, Hamdi Ahmad Abdul Aziz
- 11.00 Makhloof Ismaha Al Marra: Arabic serial. Tonight's episode is titled "Al Mutalaghah", continues in part 2. Starring: Tabiya Karioka, Hassan Mustafa, Hussein Sharbini
- 12.20 News summary
- 12.30 World News via Satellite
- 12.45 Holy Quran/closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Bears: a cartoon series.



Beachcombers, tonight on KTV2

- 6.30 The Beachcombers: "Sunday Drive". Relic wants to sell his automobile and the buyer goes on a test drive but there is an accident. Starring: Bruno Gerussi.
- 7.00 The Lords of Hokkaido: A look at animal life aspects on the region of Hokkaido.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.
- 9.00 Matlock: Ben Matlock and his associates fight difficult cases in and out of court.
- 9.10 Jack and Mike: new adventure series
- 10.00 Body Matters: A look at cancer and materials which are suspected to be the cause of this disease such as tobacco, alcohol, and asbestos.
- 10.30 The Two of Us: "The

- Odd Couples". The parents of the buller pay him a visit ... and no one seems to get on with each other.
- 11.00 Best-Seller: "Cause Celebre". It's the story of a woman who tries to find another after her first husband is killed in World War I.
- 12.30 News in Brief
- 12.40 Magazine (Actualities/Closedown)

Sports Channel

Channel 6/45

- 5.15 Opening/Sport Review
- 5.50 World Cup: Brazil vs Argentina; live broadcast from Torino, Italy.
- 9.50 World Cup: W. Germany vs Holland; live telecast from Milan, Italy.

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

Social

Weekend Club
July 2: The Weekend Club will hold "Red and Black Nite" at Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights include selection of the Red and Black Queen. The "Man of the Year" award will be announced. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones bands in attendance. Dress casual but strictly red and black combination. For details contact Julio Cardoz. Tel: 4315425; Hilary 5741380; Mercedes 4890566.

Overseas Students Party
June 27, 6 pm: British Council will hold a reception for all students who will be studying in the UK this autumn. The party will be for all students who have been offered a place at any UK university, polytechnic or college. A set of briefing notes will be given to each student. Refreshments will be served. Students going to the UK are asked to call in to collect free admission cards from Kate or Lix in the Education Office, British Council, 2 Al Arabi St, Mansouriya.

Natya Bharati
Natya Bharati calls amateur dramatists to audition for their fourth production entitled "Badi Buaji" (The Big Aunt), a full-length comedy which will be performed in mid-October. Required: a female lead, young smart lady, past stage experience would be an asset; two supporting actresses; character actors, a middle-aged man with a good personality and two young men in their early 30s. Genuinely interested people who plan to stay in Kuwait during summer holidays can contact 4880965 or 5623810 after 1.30 pm or 3721545 after 8.30 am for further details.

LIL
June 25: 10 am-12 noon: There will be a coffee morning for newcomers to LIL and Kuwait on Monday at the Sheraton Hotel, Green Room. All welcome. Tel: Ann — 5316905.

Hotels

At Ramada Al Salam
Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.
Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.
Al Gandoul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.
Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm. ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Sheraton
Piccadillo: Asparagus promotion, until May 26; plus Italian cuisine; dine to the sounds of Franco and Regina.

At the Meridian
La Brasserie
Thai Corner: Saturday night.
Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.
Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.
Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousoiki music.
Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.
Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.
Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At the SAS
Bistrotto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.
Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.
Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.
Clock snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm: Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.
Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.
Al Berdown: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

Music

Beat Festival
July 12: Coming up next month is the Beat Festival featuring such bands as Neighbuzz, Hurricane, Symphony. The show will be performed at the Anak Restaurant, opposite G.P.O. More details later.

Cinema

British Council
June 25: 6 pm. Video presentation on primary and secondary school education in England and Wales; this will be followed by a question and answer session. Please reserve seats by asking for Mrs Harries or Mrs Lockey.
June 27, 6 pm; June 28, 10 am: Children's film — Care Bears — Making Friends; 66 minutes. Please book seats.
Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.14 am
Zuhr	11.50
Asr	3.24 pm
Maghreb	6.51
Isha	8.23

CINEMA



Rajesh Khanna stars in the Hindi film "Mere Jeevan Saathi" now showing at Al Firdous Cinema.

Al Andalus
Al Raqassah Wal Siyaseen (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil

Al Salamiya
Hanafi Al Abahu (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Hud, Ramzi
Al Hamra
Al Raqassah Wal Siyaseen (Arabic)
Starring: Mustafa Mutwali, Salah Qabil, Nabila

Drive-In
Al Falaheen Ahbam (Arabic)
Starring: Saeed Salem, Hayatim
Al Firdous
Mere Jeevan Saathi (Hindi)
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Tanuja

JALANGOLITA

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Alshah weekly review

Market indices dip in thin trade

THE Alshah Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 40.04 points with a decrease of 0.37 point — 0.92 per cent from last week's average. The Alshah Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 55.58 points with an increase of 0.59 points — 1.07 per cent for the same period, according to Alshah weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 26.98 million shares at a daily average of 5.40 million shares with a decrease of 11 per cent from previous week's daily average of 6.07 million shares. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 3.880 million shares at a daily average of 0.776 million shares with a decrease of 36 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.207 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD9.01 million at a daily average of KD1.80 million, a decrease of 15 per cent from last week's daily average of KD2.11 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.164 million at a daily average of KD0.033 million, a decrease of 51 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.067 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the Investment Sector came first at 43 per cent of total trading. Kuwait Investment Projects Company had the lead at 58 per cent followed by Coast Investment & Development Company at 29 per cent and International Financial Advisers Company at 10 per cent. The Banking Sector came second at 39 per cent in which the National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 48 per cent, followed by Kuwait Finance House at 25 per cent and the Gulf Bank at 12 per cent.

The Real Estate sector came third at 6 per cent in which Kuwait Real Estate Company had the lead at 50 per cent, followed by Pearl of Kuwait Real Estate Company at 44 per cent and National Real Estate Company at 4 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain Middle East Bank had the lead at 55 per cent, followed by Umm Al Qaiwan Cement Industries Company at 27 per cent and Bahrain International Bank at 15 per cent.

The market continued to slow down for the second week. This was reflected on five of the indices. Several factors are currently affecting the market, many of them are difficult to predict their influence. The recent changes in government is an important factor and its effect on the market depends on the dealers' speculation regarding the government policy toward the stock market, whether it will follow the policy, which was implemented after 1982 or not.

It will take sometime before the direction of the government becomes clear in this respect. We believe that this issue has an impact on the market in the short run and it could be in either direction.

On the other side, the government plan to sell part of its owned portfolio of traded shares is becoming more and more unclear. It is not certain whether this plan will be carried out and if so the size and type and expected time scheduled for the offered shares is still not known.

However, as long as there is a possibility for shares prices to go down the government plans for selling its portfolio shares would always be subject for cancellation. Accordingly, we believe that our expectations for the next few weeks for the market to go in both directions is still holding and might continue for sometime.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wed.	Wed. Change
20/06/90	13/06/90	points
Banking Sector		
The National Bk	133.16	131.84 1.32
The Gulf Bk	30.36	30.83 -0.47

The Comm. Bk	23.51	23.51	—
Al Ahli Bk	31.25	31.25	—
Bk of Kt & ME	30.63	31.13	-0.50
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	28.43	28.89	-0.46
Burgan Bk	26.66	26.88	-0.22
Kt Finance House	85.32	84.42	0.90
Sector Index	50.27	50.19	0.07
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	13.22	13.22	—
Kt. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—
IIFA	30.37	33.97	-3.60
Comm. Facilities	163.35	163.35	—
National Inv.	56.86	58.82	-1.96
Kt. Inv. Proj.	83.15	84.27	-1.12
Coast Inv. & Dev.	92.94	94.12	-1.18
Sector Index	34.57	35.10	-0.53
Ins. Sector			
Kt. Ins. Co.	32.29	32.29	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—
Al Ahleia Ins.	50.71	53.38	-2.67
Warba Ins. Co.	48.20	48.20	—
Sector Index	33.71	34.14	-0.43
Real Est. Sec.			
Kt. Real Est.	12.23	11.22	1.02
Utd. Realty	5.10	5.10	—
Nat. Real Est.	20.31	39.42	-19.11
Pearl of Kt.	64.29	65.08	-0.79
Sector Index	12.61	15.04	-2.44
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Cmt. Co.	14.31	13.77	0.55
Ref. Ind.	82.36	82.36	—
Gulf Cahles	113.13	113.13	—
Kt. Pharm.	67.56	53.33	14.22
Sector Index	32.27	31.19	1.09
Services Sector			
Kt. Cmptr. Co.	142.56	140.40	2.16
Kt. Cinema Co.	9.32	9.13	0.19
Pub. Whousg Co.	54.55	52.53	2.02
Kt. Comm. M.Co.	34.99	36.37	-1.38
M. Tele. Syst.	375.00	375.00	—
Sector Index	61.09	60.66	0.43
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	24.82	24.82	—
Utd Fisheries	12.47	12.61	-0.14
Kt. Utd Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kt. Food Co.	71.26	71.26	—
Sector Index	37.92	37.97	-0.05

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

	Wed. 20/06/90	Wed. 13/06/90	Change points
First G. Bk.	263.16	263.16	—
Bah. M.E. Bk.	84.14	84.74	-0.60
Bah. M.E. Bk.	87.32	84.47	2.85
A. Gen. Inv. (Shuaa)	45.45	45.45	—
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	17.62	16.50	1.12
Sharjah Cement	25.02	24.77	0.25
G. Med. Projs.	13.13	13.13	—
Total Index	55.58	54.99	0.59

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

A state of buoyancy

Kuwait sets new goals

Economy holds great potential

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

WITH the Gulf war and a deep slump in oil prices behind it, Kuwait can look at 1990 as a start of a new chapter in its economic development that holds great potential but whose success largely depends on how well it puts its plans into action.

This is a conclusion that can be drawn from a recently published Economic and Financial Bulletin compiled by Economic Research and Planning Division of the National Bank of Kuwait.

Discussing prospects for economic growth in the Gulf region the publication notes the favourable developments on the international scene and promising and ambitious plans on the domestic front. But the main thrust of this report is a review of past events, sector by sector, listings of goals and future plans. Although it is a mine of information the authors stop short of a bold analysis of past performance and future plans. Yet it provides sufficient information for a reader to draw his or her own conclusions.

If anything, the report shows that a good foundation for the Kuwaiti economy is set on, even after the recessionary 1980s.

Thus according to the preliminary estimates it quotes a rise of 21.4 per cent in gross domestic product in 1989. Government spending remains stable at KD3.4 billion, the country has recorded a foreign trade surplus and the services account is expected to show a net surplus as well.

Oil revenues, the backbone of Kuwait's economy, rose to KD2,735.9 million in 1989

from KD1,557.8 million in the previous year. The authors have also underlined Kuwait's success in penetrating foreign markets in both downstream and upstream operations.

It says confidence has returned to the region following the Gulf war ceasefire and sustained growth in world oil prices. But these two developments by themselves could not ensure that Kuwait's economy would flourish, as had been expected.

Kuwait came down with a bang in the aftermath of the ceasefire and it watched, with dismay, Dubai emerge as a major trading centre that handles much of the Gulf trade that Kuwait covets. On the domestic market, merchants who imported vast amounts of goods in the hope of growing sales found they had few customers. With wages in the private sector stagnant and the difficulties related to transfer of visas, expatriate workers were in no mood for shopping. Thus the inability or unwillingness to properly assess the market left many a trader hunched with large inventories of unsold goods.

As stagnation persisted the need to revive the economy became more pressing. Finally, late last year, the joint economic commission put forward a set of proposals that reads like a statement of well-meant intentions. For example: expand the role of the private sector in the economy; increase the participation of the Kuwaiti work-force in the private sector. How exactly these goals are going to be reached, or what options the planners have, cannot be learnt from the report.

But there is little doubt that, given the attitudes that have so far prevailed both in the public and private sectors, the body entrusted

with execution of the proposals has a tall order.

The extent of ground that has to be covered seems enormous. This can be seen from one of the commission's proposals which says make information on the country's foreign trade and national business available to decision-makers. One would think that a country which has operated independently for almost 30 years has already made sure that its leaders do not fear to think what provided the basis for their decisions over all these years.

But while this particular omission can be easily rectified there are other proposals that would seriously test Kuwait's willingness to take bold steps into the future. One of these is a plan to create a free trade zone in Kuwait, a hobby horse that has yet to see the light of day.

The report meticulously lists the benefits and existing facilities that would help set up the free trade zone. But then, in a rare attempt to question the seriousness of those behind these proposals, it asks: Will Kuwait be prepared to match the low fees charged by Dubai's free trade zone? Will it permit 100 per cent ownership by a foreigner? Will it be able to offer traders and investors a wide range of superior quality services? In other words, will it be able to attract clients in conditions of intense competition? Answers to questions like these would offer more insight into the future prospects of Kuwait's economy. But it may be too much to expect from the bank's bulletin, not because of the lack of expertise there, but because, being where it is, the publication suffers from limitations well-known to those dealing with the potted word.

UN envoy wants new institution to handle debt crisis

CARACAS, June 23, (Reuters): UN special envoy Bettino Craxi called yesterday for a new international institution to deal with a crushing debt burden that has weighed on Latin America and other developing regions for nearly a decade.

Craxi, a former Italian Prime Minister who is Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative on debt, said in written remarks:

"The problem is systemic and in order to solve it you need an institution which can deal with it across the board."

Craxi, who is due to present his

proposals for tackling the debt problem at a joint news conference with Perez de Cuellar in Geneva next month, gave written answers in Italian to questions put to him in writing.

"The institutional subject which should operate to resolve the debt problem in a systemic way with funds to provide incentives for agreements should be set up within the International Monetary Fund and World Bank," he added.

A new debt institution would work in close co-operation with regional development banks. "I am thinking in

particular of the Inter-American Development Bank in Latin America's case, which has and must have an ever greater role in recycling financial flows."

Commercial bank exposure and bilateral debt owned to governments should be cut and funds provided to stem the annual \$25 billion outflow from Latin America.

The Brady Plan is voluntary and is based on moral suasion. At the same time it is a bit lacking in incentives and disincentives which you in English also call carrots and sticks," he said.

Oil field to go on stream

NICOSIA, June 23, (Reuters): A new oil field will go on stream in Oman on July 1, boosting the Gulf state's production by about 8,500 barrels per day (bpd), the Omani news agency reported today.

Non-Opec Oman currently produces around 650,000 bpd with plans to raise production to 700,000 bpd by the end of the year.

The Omani news agency, received in Cyprus, said exploration activities at Dail oil field, 300 km (186 miles) southwest of Muscat, have located the presence of oil in an area covering 38 square km (about 15 square miles).

It said these encouraging signs led the Japan Petroleum Exploration Company (Japex), which owns the concession at Dail, to start commercial oil production there.

Japex has drilled some 20 wells in the field to assess its potential, the agency said without giving figures about its reserves. Oman last month more than doubled its proven oil reserves to 4.3 billion barrels.

UAE rejects Iraqi accusations

Opec set for tough meeting

ABU DHABI, June 23, (Reuters): Opec appears set for a stormy meeting next month after the United Arab Emirates (UAE) today angrily rejected Iraqi accusations that it produced too much oil and was mainly responsible for low world oil prices.

President Saddam Hussein of Opec heavyweight Iraq sent a top envoy with a letter to UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, one day after Iraq's oil minister singled out the UAE as the only member which was not abiding by the organisation's rules on output.

Opec President Sadek Bousenna, fresh from talks in Baghdad, told reporters that the UAE must be brought back into Opec's falling output quota pact and he hoped to meet some of the UAE's demands for a higher quota soon. A close aide of Bousenna predicted difficult talks after the Opec president's meetings with Iraq and the UAE, his first two rounds of discussions on a tour of Gulf oil producers to try to reach a consensus on a new quota pact ahead of the ordinary meeting in Geneva on July 25.

Bousenna, Algeria's oil minister, is also scheduled to visit Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia — three key members in the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"Differences have emerged though the meeting is still a month away," said the aide, who declined to be identified. Opec delegation sources have predicted the meeting might last up to two weeks if the ministers decided to tackle the thorny issue of apportioning individual quotas to the organisation's 13 members.

UAE Oil Ministry sources said the visit by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sadeq Hamoudi was linked to Iraqi Oil Minister Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi's accusations yesterday.

They were rejected today by the UAE Oil Minister Mansour Al Otaibi.

"Our output was 2.1 million barrels per day (bpd) in May ... then instructions were issued to oil companies to

cut Abu Dhabi's oil production by 200,000 barrels," Otaibi told a news conference after talks with Bousenna. "I want to make clear that the UAE rejects threats and pressure from any source. I hope the recent comments from a fellow minister were not real but only a slip," he said without directly naming Chalabi, or Iraq.

The sources said that pressure on the UAE could only push it to increase oil output further, leading to lower oil prices which Iraq would not want.

Iraq wants higher prices for oil, its main foreign currency earner, to rebuild its economy that was badly damaged in the 1980-88 Gulf war with Iran.

Opec oil ministers agreed in emergency talks in Geneva on May 3 to shave almost 1.5 million bpd off total Opec output in May through July to get it back below the 22.086 million bpd output limit agreed at another Geneva Opec meeting in November.

The UAE, which has repeatedly demanded a higher quota to match its large oil reserves, was assigned a 1.095 million bpd quota in November but produced twice that on a monthly average in the first quarter of 1990, a Reuters industry survey said.

Chalabi said that "the UAE is the only country amongst the 13 Opec members that does not abide by the Geneva decisions."

Bousenna is stuck with the task of solving the long-running quota problem and finally persuading sceptical oil markets that Opec is serious about cutting back its excess output, oil analysts say.

Oil prices have dropped around 30 per cent this year, way below Opec's target price of \$15 per barrel.

"It has become necessary that the UAE return to the Opec quota agreements to strengthen the organisation's unity. We have exchanged views with the UAE on the size of the quota, which is a difficult and sensitive issue," said Bousenna.

Tourism looks set to flourish on a larger scale in Oman

This is the fourth part of this article, the third part appeared on June 20.

Oman with its magnificent beaches and hotels and its exotic location, is the latest newcomer to the tourism field. Since 1987, the country has started opening up to tourists through on a highly selective basis. During the 1987-88 season, 900 tourists came to Oman and an estimated 6,000 have visited the country in 1989. Most tourists are Europeans with Swiss being the majority.

Tourist attractions include swimming, waters sports, and sight-seeing. Tourism is definitely a growth industry in Oman and the next few years should see it beginning to flourish on a larger scale.

The UAE is well positioned to exploit tourist potential. It offers something for every visitor be they from the West or the East. Its main attractions are climate during the winter season, loca-

tion, historic landmarks and duty-free shopping.

Dubai in particular with its cosmopolitan character attracts a large number of visitors most of whom are transit passengers since Dubai is served by a number of international airlines which stopover to refuel and pick up passengers.

However, with the introduction of the new long haul jumbos, Dubai's transit is bound to be hit. The impact of this has not yet been felt with passenger traffic rising to 5.4 million in 1989, while the average number of daily flights increased to 167.

For visitors from the East and the Indian sub-continent in particular duty-free shopping is the major attraction in the UAE. With visas becoming more readily available and reasonable air fares, there are prospects for increased tourist traffic.

Dubai is also putting itself on the international map by becoming

an important venue for trade fairs, exhibitions, and sporting events particularly water sports and golf.

The region's hotels built during the heyday of the oil boom and largely underutilised during the recession, have seen rising occupancy rates in the last two years with the increase in the number of business visitors and tourists. If the growth in tourism continues, the UAE will need to increase hotel capacity and build more beach hotels. Currently Abu Dhabi has four beach hotels while Dubai has two.

During the peak season the number of visitors to the UAE ranges from 20,000 to 30,000, making it difficult to get block bookings for large groups.

To summarise, the regional tourist industry is still in its infancy and has a long way to go before it becomes a dependable source of revenue and employment. Efforts to boost

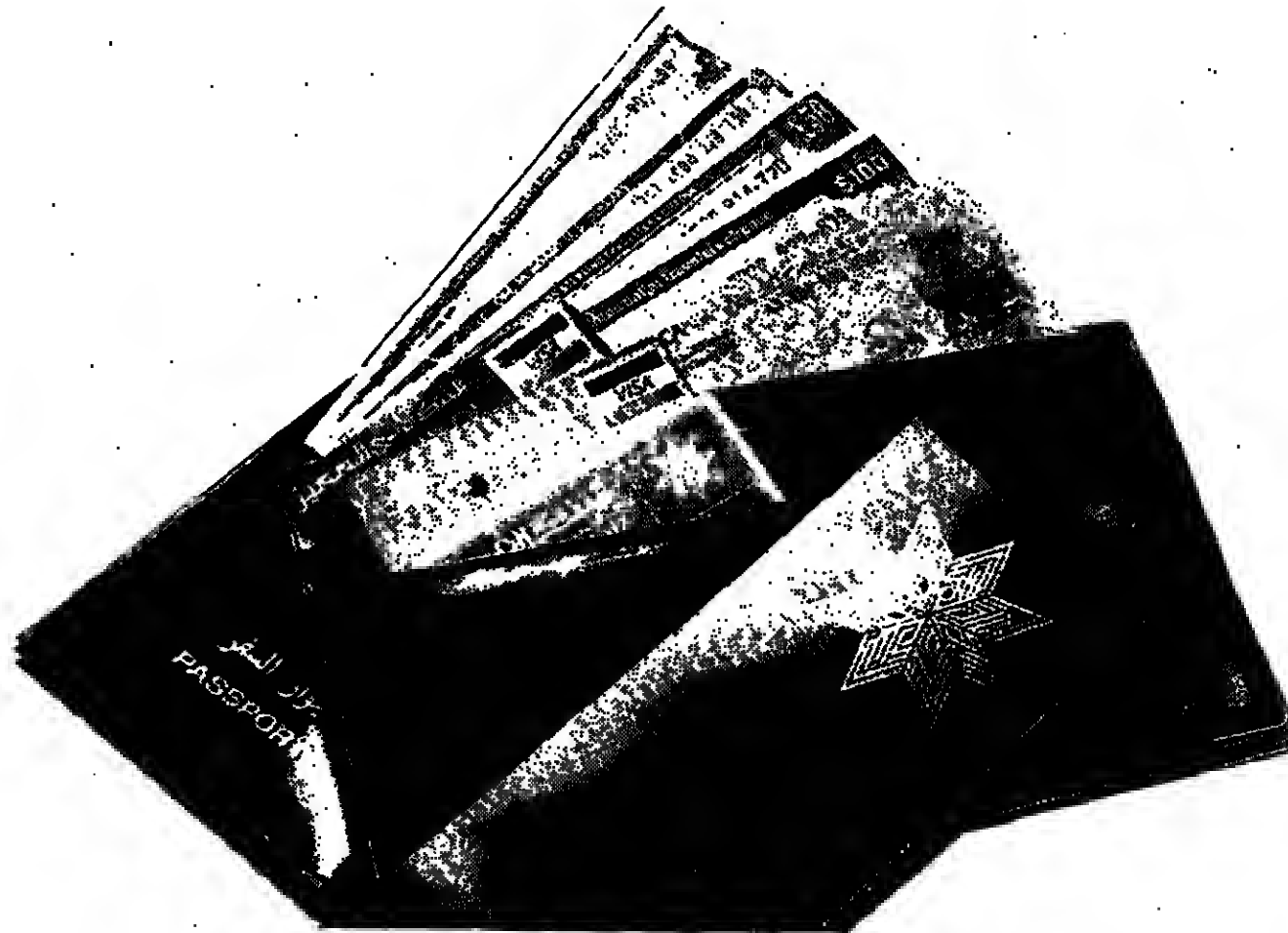
tourism should begin to pay off within the next few years provided business activities maintain their upturn. The region is expected to lose a number of transit passengers due to the new long haul aircraft which will overfly the region.

The hotel industry too will lose the business of airline crews. The region will also have to compete with other exotic nearby locations where visitors from the West in particular go for sun and sea holidays. Intra-Arab tourism appears to be a very promising development and the easing of visa regulations particularly to those who are residing in the region as well as the reduction of air fares between various Gulf destinations will further encourage the flow of visitors.

The fledgling tourist industry therefore, has to circumvent a number of obstacles before it becomes truly successful.

(Continued on Page 16)

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Business boost for Gatwick

MORE British Airways services than ever before will operate from London Gatwick airport this winter with increased frequencies on both longhaul and shorthaul networks and the transfer of some routes from London Heathrow.

British Airways' developments at the airport reflect the increasing importance of the airline places on its second London hub airport.

Gatwick handled more scheduled passengers than charter for the first time last November, and British Airways contributed some 40 per cent of that total.

The airline, which has centralised its operations at the airport's new North Terminal — voted seventh most popular terminal in the world in a recent business survey — already operates more than 550 flights per week, carrying over 50,000 passengers. The new expansion plans will mean a capacity increase of approximately 20 per cent on the long-haul network.

From November, 12 services a week will operate from Gatwick to the Caribbean, a capacity increase of 15 per cent on current operations. Trinidad will be served from Gatwick for the first time, and Antigua, Jamaica and St. Lucia, currently served from both Gatwick and Heathrow, will become all-Gatwick operations.

Frequencies to key European cities are planned to increase, starting with Copenhagen and Barcelona. The Jersey service will cease as the airline concentrates its resources on improved services from Heathrow, and Amsterdam will be served three times a day rather than the current four.

American personal income up

WASHINGTON, June 23, (AP) US personal income edged up 0.3 per cent in May for the second straight month, but personal spending was unchanged from the previous month, the government said yesterday in another sign of consumer caution.

Consumer spending is considered a barometer of economic health since it accounts for about two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

The Commerce Department reported that total retail sales seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$470 billion. The 0.3 per cent gain followed three consecutive monthly advances of 0.3 per cent and were the lowest since a 0.2 per cent increase last September.

Consumer spending remained unchanged at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$336 billion after seven straight months of gains, including 0.5 per cent in April and 0.3 per cent in March. But even the April and March advances were weaker than first thought. They were revised downward from 0.6 per cent and 0.5 per cent reported last month.

Yesterday report follows other signs of consumer weakness including three consecutive monthly declines in retail sales through May. It was the first time retail sales had dropped three months in a row since the summer of 1981 during the last recession.

Nevertheless, the difference helped improve Americans' savings rate. The rate — savings as a percentage of disposable income — rose to 6.2 per cent following a 6.0 per cent rate in April and a 6.5 per cent in March. The March rate was the highest in five years.

The week in business

First-quarter GNP growth quickens

Personal consumption edges up

NEW YORK, June 23, (UPI) Economic indicators released by the government this week painted an economic picture showing continued domestic sluggishness but slightly greater strength in some economic sectors than was previously believed.

First-quarter Gross National Product advanced a better-than-expected 1.9 per cent and after-tax corporate profits gained 1.1 per cent, the Commerce Department said.

Inflation was moderate in January, February and March, but consumer spending was sluggish.

Analysts said the figures may not bode well for the second quarter, and could be disguising weakness in the economy.

The government's preliminary GNP report, issued last month, had estimated an increase of 1.3 per cent in the nation's total output of goods and services. Private analysts had expected identical results.

In dollar amounts, first-quarter GNP, after adjusting for inflation, increased \$19.3 billion while after-tax corporate profits were up \$1.8 billion, according to the department's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

First-quarter personal consumption edged up by 1.6 per cent, while business investment leaped 7.7 per cent, the Commerce Department said. Exports of goods and services soared 12.8 per cent and imports were held to a 3 per cent gain.

Government purchases of goods and services rose 3.4 per cent.

The implicit price deflator, a barometer of inflation linked to the GNP, climbed to 5.4 per cent in the first quarter — mainly because of higher food and energy prices in the wake of December's brutal cold snap.

In the fourth quarter of 1989, the inflation rate stood at 3.2 per cent.

On Tuesday, the Commerce Department reported housing starts sank 1.4 per cent in May, hitting their lowest level since October 1982. Analysts said the slump was indicative of a sluggish economy.

A report on personal income issued yesterday also showed weakness, although it was generally in line with

estimates by private forecasters.

Personal income inched up a modest 0.3 per cent in May, but American workers appeared to play it safe by saving more money and holding back on spending, the Commerce Department said.

The \$14 billion gain in income followed increases of 0.3 per cent in April and 0.8 per cent in March, the report said.

But durable goods orders advanced a surprising 3.9 per cent in May on strong demand for motor vehicles and airplanes, the department also reported yesterday. Not counting defence, May orders were up 2.8 per cent.

Private economists had expected a 2 per cent increase in orders for the

expensive items, made to last three or more years, after a decline of 4.2 per cent in April and a gain of 6.7 per cent in March.

Analysts said the report indicated the manufacturing sector may be picking up.

In May, durable goods orders totalled \$128.2 billion, \$4.8 billion gain over April.

On the financial services front, bankers trust New York Corp. said Monday it laid off 75 employees in its corporate finance department, reflecting a slump in mergers and acquisitions. The layoffs represent about 10 per cent of the department's professional staff.

Prudential-Bache Securities Canada

Ltd. said Monday that it agreed to sell its Canadian retail brokerage business to Burns Fry Ltd. and that it plans to shift most of its other Canadian operations to New York.

The Canadian division has not shown a profit in the three years it has operated as a full-service broker. The head of the firm said forecasts have shown the retail business in Canada, which hasn't recovered from the 1987 market crash, is expected to stay depressed until at least next summer.

Also on Monday, the Supreme Court let stand an Appeals Court ruling that said the Securities and Exchange Commission lacks authority to approve trading of new so-called stock basket products.

Saib signs contract

Saudis give credit to India to buy crude

NEW DELHI, June 23, (Kuna) Saudi Arabia has offered \$1.150 million credit to India for purchase of oil and oil products from Saudi Arabia.

The credit offer was made by the Saudi Investment Bank (Saib), which is the most cash-rich bank of the world.

The Saib recently signed an agreement with Capital Trust Limited, an Indian company to appoint it as their consultant in India, the agreement is subject to clearance by the Reserve Bank of India.

This is the first offer made by any Saudi bank to India.

As a first step, the Saib has

offered \$150 million facility to 12 Indian nationalised banks for financing for their supply of oil from Saudi Arabia.

The financing shall be in the form of supplier credit and would be available for a period of 180 days and offered a low interest charge of 0.25 per cent above the London Interbank Official Rate (Libor).

The deputy general manager of Saib, Saad Saleh Al Sajeh, who was in New Delhi to sign the agreement, said that the bank would offer substantial reduction to Indian banks in advising and negotiations commissions.

The credit would also ease the

pressure of cash-strapped position of India.

While the political relations between Saudi Arabia and India had remained always warm and cordial, there is very little economic activity between the two countries.

India suffered adverse balance of trade with Saudi Arabia trade deficit amounting to about \$1 billion while, India's share in Saudi imports has fallen from 2.72 per cent in 1970-71 per cent in 1987.

The Saudi Arabian economy is based on the free trade philosophy, but the Indian economy is a

controlled one. This is the main reason for Saudi businessmen absence from the Indian market.

The Saib is owned by big names in the banking. Besides 36 per cent share held by the Saudi public, the Chase Manhattan overseas banking corporation of the United States holds 15 per cent share, the Industrial Bank of Japan five per cent and Hany Shoridir Waggas another five per cent.

The Saudi bank is credited with vast investible funds. Its annual report of 1989 showed loans and advances of merely 10 per cent of its total deposits.

KD deposit market eases

KUWAIT, June 23, (Reuters) Short-term deposit rates began to ease today in the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market after a delayed influx of money from government wage payments began to work through the system, dealers said.

Overnight was being quoted marginally easier on the offered side, compared with Thursday, at 7-7/8 to 8-1/8 per cent. Fixed rates were inactive. Dealers expect rates to continue down over the next few days.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29218/28 to the dollar. Meanwhile, a combination of the usual European weekend calm and lack of interest kept the Saudi rial interbank deposit market very quiet today, dealers said.

There was little business detected and dealers spent their time mainly clearing. Three months was being quoted around 7-15/16 to 8-1/8 per cent. The spot rial was being quoted at 3.7502/05 to the dollar.

Contracts signed

NICOSIA, June 23, (Reuters) Iran has signed contracts with French, Italian and South Korean firms to repair its main oil export terminal at Kharg island bombed during the Gulf war.



Labour dispute

Police on horseback clash with rebel building workers trying to prevent contract labour crossing an unofficial picket line at a Melbourne building site on Friday. There were no arrests. (Reuters wirephoto)

Durable goods orders jump

WASHINGTON, June 23, (AP) Orders to US factories for durable goods jumped 3.9 per cent in May, nearly wiping out the previous month's decline, the government reported yesterday.

The Commerce Department said orders for durable goods — big-ticket items expected to last at least three years — totalled a seasonally adjusted \$128.2 billion after falling 4.2 per cent in April.

Orders have risen three of the last four months after plunging a record 10.5 per cent in January.

Michael P. Niemira, an economist with Mitsubishi bank in New York, said orders should continue to improve this year, though the improvement will be choppy.

Most of May's increase was in transportation equipment, up 9.9 per cent to \$35.3 billion. Nearly two-thirds of this advance was concentrated in automobiles; most of the remainder in aircraft.

Transportation orders have been volatile during

much of the year, including a 13.5 per cent drop in April and a 24.1 per cent gain in March.

Excluding transportation, orders were up 1.8 per cent in May.

The closely watched non-defence capital goods sector, often a barometer of business investment plans, decreased 1.4 per cent to \$36.1 billion, the fourth decline this year after peaking in December at 44.4 billion.

Defence orders, another volatile category, jumped 19.0 per cent to \$9.9 billion after a 3.4 per cent gain in April. Excluding defence, orders rose 2.8 per cent.

Shipments of durable goods, which have increased in three of the last four months, were up 3.5 per cent in May to \$126.1 billion. Unfilled orders edged up 0.4 per cent to 500.3 billion, nearly half of which is in aircraft.

Union Carbide to build latex plant in Jebel Ali

UNION Carbide Chemicals and Plastics Company Inc. has announced plans to construct a latex manufacturing plant in Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone.

Sultan Bin Sulayem, chairman of Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority, welcomed the announcement: "It is particularly pleasing to see one of the first companies to set up in the Free Zone now expanding, making full use of the facilities in the Port and Free Zone and introducing a new and important industry to the area."

Union Carbide Chemicals and Plastics currently operates a terminal in the Free Zone and the new latex plant will supplement an existing investment in local facilities and services. The plant is designed to incorporate the most modern latex production technology, including environmental protection.

The plant will have a 10,000 tonne annual production capacity and employ 25 people. The basic raw material for the plant is produced by Union Carbide world-wide and will be delivered via Jebel Ali Port to Union Carbide's recently expanded tank farm in the Free Zone for storage.

The broad range of latex polymers to be produced at the new plant will meet customers' needs for interior and exterior paints, roof coatings, adhesives and sand/dust control materials.

"The plant is primarily being established to serve GCC markets, however, it will also be feasible for us to distribute from Jebel Ali to Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan," says Joseph Sakaan, Union Carbide's resident manager in Dubai.

Tourism looks set to flourish on a larger scale in Oman

(Continued from Page 15)

Insurance and reinsurance premiums constitute an important source of income particularly in the more industrialised countries. However, insurance activities in the Gulf have not developed to such an extent and still play a minor role in the six GCC states. With a total population of about 16 million, generating an annual GDP of about \$137 billion, social and economic activity in the region produced a total gross premium income of \$1.275 million (direct and reinsurance) in 1988. Based on these figures, insurance in the Gulf contributed approximately 0.9 per cent to the total GDP of the six Gulf States and represented \$81.7 on a per capita basis.

Most of the private insurance companies throughout the Gulf were established during the oil boom period of the 1970s. There are currently more than 150 local and foreign insurance companies in the six Gulf states dealing in direct insurance and reinsurance, of which more than 50 per cent are domestic firms. According to the latest available statistics provided by the Arab Insurance Group (ARIG), 75 of these domestic companies deal in direct insurance and 4 in reinsurance.

Saudi Arabia has 38 direct insurance companies; Kuwait has 4 direct and 4 reinsurance companies; United Arab Emirates has 17 direct companies; Bahrain has 8 direct companies; and Qatar and Oman each have 4 direct insurance companies.

However, with the exception of a few, most of the domestic companies are under-capitalized which implies that retentions are maintained at low levels obliging these companies to operate more or less like agencies for foreign reinsurance. Moreover, the number of qualified local staff is limited resulting in high dependence on expatriate expertise, especially in target risk areas.

All of the Gulf states, have free insurance markets in the sense that domestic insurance companies that are owned by the private sector work alongside the foreign companies. However, the foreign firms do not occupy a significant share of each market. A degree of protectionism is exercised in the region's insurance markets as only national companies are able to insure government-owned and sponsored properties.

In fact, the government business comprises the bulk of the region's premium income and it

is this support that has enabled the indigenous companies to grow over the years. For example, Saudi Arabia's National Company of Co-operative Insurance (NCCI) insures all the kingdom's national oil and gas business, such as Saudi Aramco, Saudi Arabian Marketing and Refining Company, SABIC and Saudi airline.

It obtained this business by a royal decree in 1988 which also included all government construction projects above a contract value of \$5 million Saudi rials (\$1.35 million). Previously, this business was insured and reinsured through foreign based companies.

Consequently, insurance and reinsurance companies flooded in, followed by reputation loss adjusters and risk management firms. According to ARIG, 1987, the aggregate GCC direct insurance premium reached \$1,073.5 million. More than 69.8 per cent of these premiums were classified as non-life, non-marine (fire and oil, engineering, motor and other miscellaneous). Saudi Arabia's share of the Gulf's direct premium market was 47.6 per cent followed by the UAE (20.6 per cent), Kuwait (17.7 per cent), Qatar (5.3 per cent), Oman (4.6 per cent) and Bahrain (4.1

per cent). Oil undoubtedly contributed significantly to the emergence and subsequent importance of some of the insurance branches in the region. However, motor and cargo and hull insurance, represent the two largest classes of business for the Gulf states. In 1983, cargo and hull represented almost 30 per cent of the GCC's total direct insurance premium, although in the years following, this share has dipped by more than 7 per cent. On the other hand, motor insurance premium share has increased from 20 per cent in 1983, to 25 per cent in 1987.

Revenues of the GCC's domestic insurance companies from fire and oil have been small when compared to the importance of oil holds in the region, because many of the Gulf countries have insured their operations with foreign-based companies and brokers. One risk branch which has yet to be exploited is life insurance.

The life insurance market in the Gulf has been quite limited, having comprised between three and four per cent of the total market over the last few years. This has been due mainly to the traditional antipathy towards life insurance with foreign companies capturing most of

whatever business there is.

The direct insurance companies of the Gulf have become an integral part of international reinsurance market. Reinsuring a significant amount of their business risk, these companies gain access to extra capacity, and benefit from the interchange of technical expertise and well balanced distribution of risks.

Nevertheless, this does not preclude the fact that the extent to which Gulf insurers have relied on reinsurance has had detrimental effects on their respective economies. The additional reinsurance requirements tended to channel premium income outside the region and put pressure on foreign reserves. Various legislations in different forms were enforced on the insurance companies, in a bid to alleviate this pressure.

Meanwhile, local reinsurance companies emerged in the region. Presently, there are three local reinsurance companies: two in Kuwait and one in Bahrain. The total gross premium income of these reinsurance companies in 1988 was estimated at \$213.7 million, an approximately 8 per cent increase on 1987. Of this, more than 80 per cent was retained compared to 70 per cent the year

before.

Nevertheless, the local reinsurance companies are not without problems. In fact, weakness in reinsurance companies are quite similar to those of the direct insurance companies, including under-capitalisation and the inability to meet security criteria of the industry internationally. The only exception among the local reinsurance companies is the Arab Insurance Group (ARIG) which has had an impressive track record and has established a good international presence. Paid-up capital of ARIG is \$150 million, while the other two insurance companies each has a paid-up capital below \$20 million.

In the last year or so Gulf insurance companies have started to venture into the international markets. The extra capacity offered by the region's insurance and reinsurance companies is helping to keep down rates at a time when European firms have been trying to put them up to compensate for losses after last winter's storms in Europe.

Most oil and energy companies are welcoming the Gulf insurance firms who are stepping in with good offers and making the international market more competitive. Several large Gulf

insurance companies are planning to expand overseas, concentrating mainly on the oil and energy sector where they have had ample experience.

In the 1990s, efforts of all insurance and reinsurance firms in the region should be directed towards increasing their capital and retention capacities. Moreover, there is also scope for more pools, supported by sufficient capacity to cover areas where high risks and large liabilities are involved such as in the oil industry. In industries like aviation, a combined approach to the market would be greatly beneficial to regional airlines as well as to local insurers and reinsurers.

This will depend on increased co-operation among the Gulf's insurers more than any other factor. The Arab Insurance Group (ARIG) has demonstrated that when it acts in concert, problems can more readily be solved. An example was the formation of AWRIS (the Arab War Risks Insurance Syndicate) in 1981, which retained about 60 per cent of the premiums and at the same time, was able to reduce rates.

The future potential for the Gulf insurance industry is therefore vast, but growth and profitability requires not only structural improvements but

also a unified approach to develop this growing market and face the challenges ahead with confidence.

The revival of the services industries and in particular the growth being experienced by the insurance, shipping and travel sectors is encouraging. Although the region did not experience the boom in services activities that had initially been expected following the end to the Iran-Iraq war, nevertheless business has picked up.

The insurance, shipping and aviation industries have been quick to take advantage of the changing climate as has been reflected in the recent upturn of their profitability. The airline industry has been given an additional boost with a general rise in the growth of international air traffic and the advent of tourism to the region.

The efforts being made by the region's governments to move away from total dependency on oil revenues should produce results in the coming years. Income generated from services activities may assume a larger part of the region's GDP. These changes are not likely to occur overnight and it will be a number of years before their potential is fully realised.

(Concluded)

Victims of violent crime

Emotional scarring lasts a lifetime

WASHINGTON, June 23, (UPI): Maria Hanson needs only to look at herself in the mirror for a reminder of the brutality she suffered.

The 29-year-old former New York fashion model's face was left permanently scarred after two thugs, hired by her landlord in a dispute over a security deposit, attacked her one early morning on a Manhattan street. Using razor blades, the men inflicted wounds that required 150 stitches to close.

But, Hanson points out, all physical wounds heal in time. It's the emotional

scarring that she will carry for the rest of her life.

"I have flashbacks sometimes," Hanson said. "You never know when something's going to trigger a memory and cause you to be paralysed. Sometimes a sound or a noise or a smell or a sight triggers a memory and I just become completely paralysed. I can't function that day. I've learned that's part of living through a trauma and those days I just have to get through. The next day might be better."

"It's had devastating effects on me, long-term effects," Hanson continued. "I think

'Flashbacks ... sometimes a sound or a noise or a smell or a sight triggers a memory. I just become paralyzed.'

it's changed the way I look at the world forever. It's not a safe place anymore. I think I've gained a lot of perspective on it in the last four years, but it's one of those things

you never get over. It's always there."

Hanson has tried to come to grips with the attack and the stigma society attaches to victims of violent crime, particularly women.

The most recent time was last week to the Senate judiciary committee as she sought to persuade Congress to back ground-breaking legislation aimed at cracking down on the nation's escalating violence against women, both in the home and on the street.

FBI and Justice Department statistics reveal an alarming pattern of violence against women in the United States:

- During the past decade, rape rates have risen nearly four times as fast as the total crime rate.
- A woman is raped in this country every 6 minutes.
- A woman is beaten every 18 seconds and 4 million women are battered by husbands or boyfriends every year.
- Since 1974, the rate of assaults against women aged 20-24 has increased 48.1 per cent, while the rate against men in the same age group dropped 11.8 per cent during the same period.
- Since 1974, the rate of murder of

women 65 or older has increased 29.9 per cent, while the rate for men of the same age group fell 5.6 per cent.

Hanson and Nancy Ziegenmeyer, an Iowa housewife whose 1988 rape drew national attention after a series of articles about her in the Des Moines Register, were the first two witnesses testifying in a hearing on new legislation, introduced by Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., considered the first comprehensive package of federal initiatives designed to combat violence against women.

Tough class haute couture

PARIS, June 23, (AP): Candice Fraiburger is her own best model. Tall, slim and totally Parisienne. She is a beautiful blonde who specialises in creating dresses that make others look beautiful, too.

After a modest start years ago, Fraiburger (pronounced "fray-beer-jay") is gradually proving she has an authoritative flair for creating boutique clothes.

Her winter line, unveiled this week, displayed well-cut, long-draped skirts, neck lines with baroque appliqued embroidery over strapless dresses, draped chiffons, plenty of sequins and sparkle combined with lace, satin, taffeta and velvet.

The only criticism is that the finished clothes are somewhat fussy for the French. But that doesn't matter to Fraiburger, who is now better-known in the United States than in France.

She regularly travels to upscale American department stores, including Neiman-Marcus, Saks and Nordstrom's.

Her clothes lack the traditional chic of styles by someone like Jacqueline de Ribes, another society beauty designing her own label line—whose stricter, slinky silhouettes often recall Yves Saint Laurent.

But the Fraiburger line has more than a touch of class and haute couture. It's made in workshops in the Rue Poissonniere, the heart of the garment district east of central Paris, and is lovingly finished by seamstresses in the couture tradition long appreciated by connoisseurs.

The luxury fabrics and detailing put them into a category superior to ready-to-wear. But at their price-range of \$2,000 to \$6,000 per outfit, the clothes are worth watching.

For price and quality, they compare favourably with lines like Christian Lacroix's "Luxe," which can be double or triple Fraiburger's price tags.

Indeed, with feminine touches like flared umbrella skirts over crinolines and contrasts of pink and black velvet in embroidered dresses with decorated matadors' boleros, one sees a definite Lacroix influence at work here.

"Personally I never leave time to think about what I wear," said Ms Fraiburger after her small show parade of winter cocktail and evening clothes. "I'm totally absorbed by what I'm making for others."

But she did look smashing in her black and white cotton summer suit with beaded, embroidered lapels, fitted for elegance with just a hint of sexiness.

Paradoxically this "fortysomething" lady (who looks at least 15 years younger) has more fans in Houston than in Paris.

"I had learned about clothes from working in retail in France, but it was the American who first enjoyed and ordered my styles when I started my own business," said Ms Fraiburger.

Married to an investment counsellor and mother of two grown children Ms Fraiburger says she is financing her own business, not backed by any grand consortium as many style creators are today.

"Sadly enough, I don't even have a proper boutique yet in France," she said, adding that her friends and those in the know come to her showroom at Rue Aguesseau, just around the corner from the fashionable Faubourg Saint-Honore.

But she's selling well in style-conscious countries like Japan and Germany, and is at last attracting favourable comments from the French fashion press.

"I think the clothes look very well made," said Christine Marais of French Harper's bazaar.

Broken hearted

'Executive deaths'

BOULDER, Colorado, June 23, (AP): Arthur W. Ewy was a successful accountant with 37 years experience when a management change forced him to retire from the board of Gates Rubber Co., a manufacturer of belts and hoses.

Within six months, Ewy was dead of a heart attack. His son, Roger, said he died of a broken heart, caused by forced departure from the Denver company that put him out to pasture like an aging racehorse.

Some medical experts have a different term for this—early executive mortality.

"Men are dying not with their boots on, but with their retirement plans clutched in their hands," said Dr. Alan Sherman, a Palo Alto, California, psychiatrist who has studied post-retirement executive deaths.

G. Dale Meyer, an assistant business professor at the University of Colorado, is directing a study commissioned by Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. to determine if executives forced into retirement tend to die soon after losing power. Meyer's team, which includes physicians, has just begun working.

'Men are dying not with their boots on, but with their retirement plans clutched in their hands'

"We're trying to see if this is folklore, or if it's real," Meyer said.

A number of businessmen say it's real.

Justin Dart, creator of Dart Industries, issued a statement when he was 72. "I want my death and my retirement to be simultaneous."

Three years later in 1980, he merged his corporation with Kraft Inc. and died.

Armand Hammer, 92, chairman of Occidental Petroleum Corp., William C. Norris, 78, founder of Control Data Corp., and J. Peter Grace, 77, chairman of W.R. Grace and Co., are all among top executives who refused to retire rather than relinquish power. Norris stepped

down as chairman of his company four years ago but remains a powerful board member.

"A time arrives when, for a variety of possible reasons, the successful entrepreneur thinks retirement. Yet being an entrepreneur, this individual can't fathom the traditional meaning of the term retirement," Meyer said.

"Nothing, absolutely nothing, in this individual's view of the world relates to the retirement concept."

"Bureaucrats and corporates, the corporate equivalent of bureaucrats, place comfortable retirement as a high priority throughout their careers. They look forward to doing nothing, they dream of travel, golf, fishing, dilettantism and perhaps a hobby," said Meyer.

"This is not to say that all who eagerly anticipate retirement do it well. Increasingly, the emptiness of it all, the unstructured meaningless, the loss of vital interests, is being viewed more negatively. The loss of purpose, it is now known, can create early illness and even death," he said.

Nonetheless, early executive mortality remains a medically undocumented syndrome. Although anecdotal examples of premature deaths after retirement have been chronicled, there are plenty of executives who survive and thrive after getting out of the workaholic race while relatively young.

One example is Peter Lynch, 46, the manager of the highly profitable Magellan Mutual Fund of Fidelity Investments in Boston. After 13 years of running the fund, he called it quits last month to spend more time with his family.

Still, Lynch's story does not reflect a more common occurrence: Executives who are pushed into retirement before they're ready. Their numbers have been growing in recent years in the United States, partly because of the restructurings, mergers and staff reductions that have reshaped much of US business.

Moreover, few companies teach potential retirees for a second career that might extend their useful life.



Tom Cruise faces the test in "Days of Thunder"

Real test of a star's machismo

Dare-devilry behind the wheel

HOLLYWOOD, June 23, (UPI): Tom Cruise in "Days of Thunder" gets behind the wheel of a race car to follow the tire treads of other such daredevil stars as James Garner, Paul Newman and the late Steve McQueen.

Filmdom's reigning young heartthrob plays an ambitious Nascar racer risking his neck at every turn.

Among certain actors, a race car film is almost a rite of passage.

It's not enough that a leading man knows how to throw a punch, fire a gun or lure the leading lady into a hot tub. No, the real test of machismo is gunning a race car around a track at 170 mph—making sure the camera is focussed close enough to unmistakably identify the star as the driver and not a stunt man.

If the lens can capture the star's profile, speedometer and other racers tearing by in the background, so much the better.

Like Garner, Newman and McQueen

before him, Cruise raced cars before he decided to make his race picture.

His director, England's Tony Scott, says, "actors who drive racing cars have a passion for making these pictures. It presents us with the superstar as stallion."

"Tom has enormous driving skill. He drove at the Charlotte speedway and came within half a second of setting the lap record. He raced with Paul Newman's team for two years, so Tom knew what he was doing."

So did Scott. Years ago he attended racing school in England, but never made the grade.

"I had a passion for speed and I was fascinated by how racers think and funnel on, which I assimilated on the track," he said. "I had the guts but not the talent."

"Cruise has both. It takes guts to race a car in competition at speeds up to 200 mph, but it's difficult to direct even a fine

driver like Tom in a car during a race. It's a matter of situating the cameras inside and outside the car in an actual race."

Scott said he screened every old racing picture he could find, adding that he stole from all the good ones and built on the good elements from the bad ones.

"However," he said, "you have to go on from the past. I think 'Days of Thunder' is fresh because it puts the audience inside the car and gives people the feeling of being on the track."

"Filmmaking technology has improved, but I rejected the new technology. I put the cameras where they'd never been placed before. In one shot we had the camera an inch off the road on a front bumper when the car hit 190 mph during a real race at Daytona International Speedway."

Scott's advisors and driving team managed to qualify for competition in several real races, including this year's

Daytona 500.

"Our cars finished some of the races," he said, "but Nascar officials pulled us off the track several times after 100 laps. It was dangerous because if a camera had come loose it could have wrecked or slowed down other cars."

According to Scott, the largest sports crowds in the world—World Cup Soccer matches notwithstanding—attend motor racing the year around.

"It's about sportsmen living on the edge of life or death," he said. "That's what makes racing pictures so popular. Audiences like that knife-edge of life. Racing is the biggest spectator sport by far."

While there are plenty of crash scenes of cars bouncing off walls and horrific fires captured on film, the stunt men drivers and actors escaped unhurt.

"It did give me pause to see my star roaring along at 150 mph," Scott said.

Hollywood's bouquet of celebrity scents

A whiff of stardom, a dash of fragrance

HOW much would you pay for a whiff of Mikhail Baryshnikov's Misha? Or would a dab of Priscilla Presley's Moments, Elizabeth Taylor's Passion or Julio Iglesias' Only more likely tickle your olfactory nerves and pull at your purse strings?

Perfume creators, once a faceless lot of old men who sat in faraway laboratories sticking their noses into bottles of spice, flower and herb essences, have finally gotten smart. Why should they toil for years to produce a marketable scent when by simply putting a celebrity's name on a bottle and devising a promotional campaign that concentrates heavily on personal appearances and star-studded television ads they can capture stardom in a bottle and sell it for a truly stellar sum?

Welcome to Hollywood's scent wars, which are being waged from coast to coast with no sign of a truce in sight. Consider the aforementioned



Mikhail Baryshnikov, in the midst of scent wars.

Misha. As anyone who has been anywhere near the ballet can attest, the predominant smell of this particular art form is sweat—lots of it. But don't tell that to the president of Richard Barrie Fragrances, Inc., who enlisted the dance star for this perfume.



Elizabeth Taylor, 'Passion' sells.

Selling at \$185 an ounce and backed by a \$4 million advertising campaign based on a soft-focus romantic close-ups of the dreamy-eyed Russian, it's come on line whispers: "Let it move you like no fragrance ever has."

"This is a classy, quality guy who's not overexposed. Women react to him. He's very sexy."

Not long ago Baryshnikov stood between the perfume counters of New York's Saks Fifth Avenue department store, autographing pictures and spraying a fine mist of his costly scent on each of the star-struck women who lined up to meet him. Baryshnikov stands to make a handsome profit from his fragrant namesake, provided he emerges victorious from the midst of this battle. It seems that every other singer, actress and sports personality in the business is after his or her share of the more-than-\$4 billion US perfume market.

On the West Coast another newcomer to the male fragrance market showed up at stores to promote his cologne. This personality is no shrinking violet when it comes to ballyhoo: former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali is going for a quick knockout with his less

Scent wars are being waged from coast to coast in America and there seems to be no end in sight.

expensive scent Ali. A 1.7-ounce bottle sells for \$25. Jaclyn ("Charlie's Angels") Smith, whose California costs \$120 an ounce and was available only at Bloomingdale's when it was released, has also introduced a more affordable eau de cologne at \$17.50 an ounce, which is available at more down-scale establishments such as K. Mart.

At the same time the historic, 18th-century German perfume house 4711 Parfum Fabrik—the people who created the first brand-name fragrance—have signed Argentinean tennis ace Gabriela Sabatini and actress Presley from their very different worlds for two distinct scents.

Presley says she's not worried about being crowded out: "Perfume, no matter what name is on the label, has to stand on the merits of the fragrance itself. If the fragrance isn't wonderful a perfume will never enjoy real popularity."

"Priscilla's life," rhapsodize the backers of Elvis' widow's scent, "represents the ultimate romantic story. It is this romance we wish to capture in a spirited new fragrance that will have universal appeal."

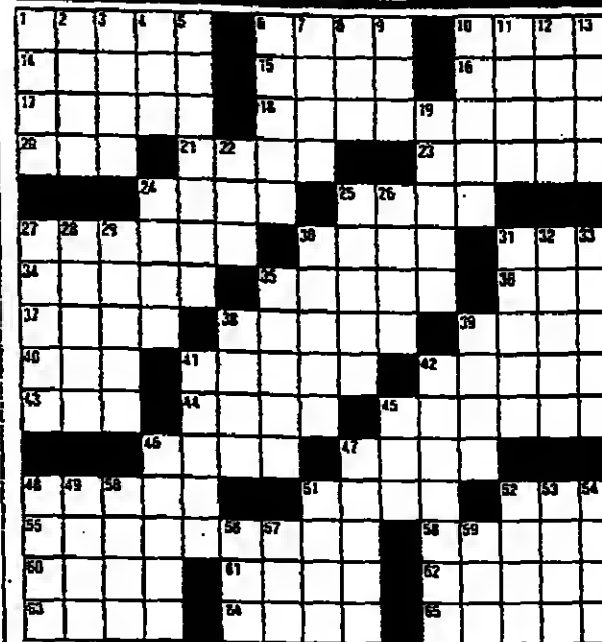
And speaking of romance, on the male front Myrurgia, a Spanish fragrance manufacturer, is hoping to capitalise on the swoon appeal of their countryman Iglesias to sell Only. Iglesias, sexy essence will set women back \$200 an ounce.

A braver approach altogether is that of Herb Alpert, once the leader of the Tijuana brass band and now head of the giant A&M Records. Alpert

pronounced himself a lifelong fan of perfume just before forming his own company and producing Listen, his entry in the scent wars. He doesn't see anything strange in a musician selling perfume.

"Once I started talking to the perfume people," says the man with the golden trumpet (the perfume bottle is in the shape of his instrument; the ads read: "Once in a great while comes along a fragrance that hits a perfect note. All you have to do is Listen.") "I discovered we speak the same language—high end, low end, top note, opening note, midrange. It's a perfect match."

On the heels of Alpert comes another musician, the great Smokey Robinson, who has passed out samples of his perfume Smoke, an eau de parfum (which is slightly stronger than a cologne), at his concerts and in his newest album. It sells by mail order only at \$29.50 for 1.7 ounces.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hays**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mark Waid**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brian Basker & John Willard**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Dinner course
 - Equitable
 - Pillow cover
 - Overact
 - To — perfectly
 - Corn bread
 - Donates
 - Garden loafers?
 - on a Grecian Urn
 - Resident of 1800 Penn. Ave.
 - Tears down a Bloomsbury building
 - Part of a necklace
 - Book or draft
 - Sentimental song
 - Peel Teasdale
 - Broadcast network
 - Colder
 - Fanatical
 - Corp. VIP
 - Trampled
 - Shade of green
 - Warning from Nicklaus
 - One, in Wiesbaden
 - Dads
 - Studied hard, with "over"
 - College radical org. in the 1960s
 - Hoosier humorist et al.
 - Destroys the keen edge
 - Second-hand
 - Word with cream or grapes
 - Proficient
 - Thailand, formerly
 - Seed vessel
 - Garden
- DOWN**
- Type of laugh
 - Beams
 - Sidestep
 - Food regimen
 - Rooney of "60 Minutes"
 - Deserves
 - Pratfall
 - Between
 - It makes the world go 'round
 - Devoiced
 - Gloomy fruit tree?
 - Wearied
 - Shoshoneans
 - Sargasso, for one
 - Danson of "Cheers"
 - Asparagus unit
 - Does gardening
 - Poker stake
 - Army meal
 - and-butter letter
 - Brit. dance org.
 - Ran, as madras
 - in Toyland
 - Actress Moran
 - Goes for the belt
 - Stinging
 - Some are literary
 - Actress Thompson and namesakes
 - Fruit of the oak
 - Henri's cap
 - Dorm dwellers
 - Did a ranch job
 - Take on cargo
 - Quartet
 - Lingine
 - Little Jack Homer?
 - Fur scarf
 - Surprise win, as in sports
 - Actress Spack
 - Imitated
 - Lunchmeat center
 - Facilitate
 - Carpet size meas.
 - Map
 - Ye — Shoppe
 - Stains
 - FDR agency in the 1930s
 - Rather
 - A Gabor

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CAMP AIMEO AFAR
ALAR TREV TRE
TDO TARAS HARA
SUCCEEDS PRETOR
ERSE DOONE
RODENT DISCARDS
ASIDE PERES NEE
TIPS SOCKS MIEN
EEL SPURS PETRO
DOLLERY PRAYER
MAULS LAOS
TEASEL CENSURED
DRIS ELOPE RICE
AGID REPEL ETON
DCCS SEERS SENT

GOREN BRIDGE**BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF**
BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 10 5
 ♥ 9 7 2
 ♦ K Q 10
 ♣ A K 10

WEST
 ♠ 9 8 4
 ♥ A 10 7 6 4
 ♦ J 7 6
 ♣ J 8 3

EAST
 ♠ A 6 3 2
 ♥ Void
 ♦ A 9 8 3 2
 ♣ 9 7 6 4

SOUTH
 ♠ J 7
 ♥ K Q J 8 5 3
 ♦ 5 4
 ♣ Q 5 2

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 NT Pass 4 ♣ Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠
 Controversy has long swirled about which card to lead from a worthless triplex. Top of nothing is standard. Others advocate MUD (middle, up, down). The modern tendency is to lead the lowest. Had East-West been employing the latter carding method, they might have avoided this calamity.

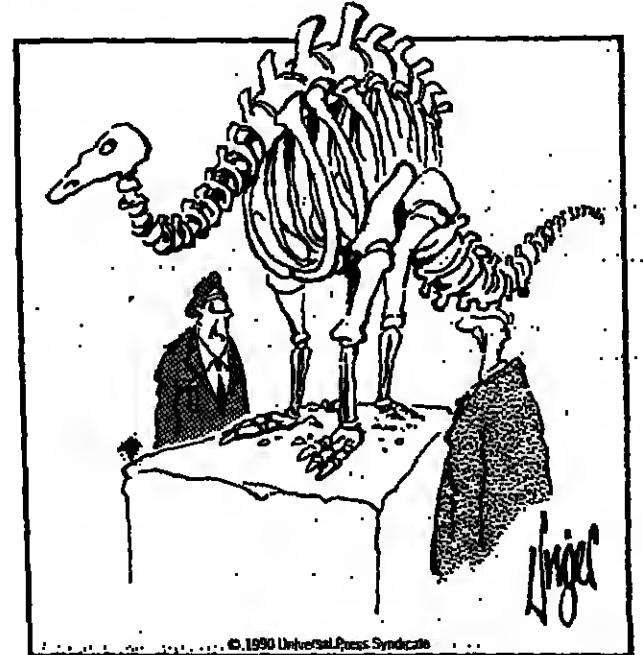
The auction needs no comment. After North's one trump opening will be obvious that the only side-bid, four hearts was a just express-suit trick still available to the decision of South's trick-taking ability. As the cards lie, a diamond lead would have guaranteed the con-asserts that the defenders get their tract's eventual demise, but no one two pointed aces and two trump can blame West for being reluctant tricks.

to lead away from an unsupported jack. East took the ace of spades and returned the deuce in the hope of eventually giving partner a ruff. Declarer decided to treat that as an honest card, showing an original holding of four cards in the suit. In that case, there was a way to guarantee the contract even if trumps broke 4-0.

Declarer overlooked the jack of spades with the queen and cashed the king for a diamond discard. When both defenders followed to that trick, the contract had become unbeatable. The foolproof method was to lead the ten of spades and discard the remaining diamond from the closed hand!

Declarer did not mind that West ruffed this trick. That was only the second trick for the defense and, since there were now only three hearts outstanding, the only other trick the defenders could get was the ace of trumps.

Note that, as the cards lie, declarer will go down if he plays differently. Suppose he tries to draw trumps. West will win the ace of hearts and it will be obvious that the only side-bid, four hearts was a just express-suit trick still available to the decision of South's trick-taking ability. As the cards lie, a diamond lead would have guaranteed the con-asserts that the defenders get their tract's eventual demise, but no one two pointed aces and two trump can blame West for being reluctant tricks.



"They knew how to build skeletons in those days"

YOUR STARS

Aries
 March 21 - April 20
 You should try to take your mind off work for the day and enjoy yourself a little. Do not think so much about what might have been. And look more ahead of you than behind you. Be generous.



Cancer
 June 21 - July 20
 A craving for sweet things should be kept in check as much as possible. Indeed you should do all you can to contain your weight. Something you had predicted will indeed happen, but if you boast about it you will arouse resentment. Be tolerant.



Libra
 Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
 Take just a little more exercise but do try not to strain yourself. You will tend to act on impulse and should try to keep the trend under control. If you just hope for the best you stand to be most disappointed. Be fair.



Capricorn
 Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
 Something you had been rather fearing will not now happen. You will be relieved, but you should still take care. Take another look at the situation, your assessment may need to be revised. Be less obstinate.



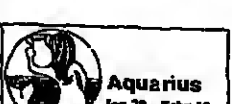
Taurus
 April 21 - May 20
 Make sure your partner is in no doubt about your love. Do not allow some small upset to disturb your inner peace of mind. Make sure you get enough rest without succumbing to indolence. Be flexible.



Leo
 July 21 - Aug. 21
 You should not allow anything to come between you and a good friend of yours. You will be pleased with the way things are going but you must look out for hidden snags nonetheless. Keep calm when dealing with a nervous person. Be sincere.



Scorpio
 Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
 A thing you did not look forward to will turn out to be not nearly as bad as you had expected. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 25. You will feel better than of late, but do avoid eating anything even slightly stale.



Aquarius
 Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
 You are liable to make mistakes and should be on the lookout for them. Also, beware of dropping things, or tripping over them. Do all you can to avoid getting into an argument. Be practical.



Gemini
 May 21 - June 20
 Think twice before you make a decision or you may come to regret it. Your affairs will take a turn for the better, but that is no reason to rest on your laurels. Make sure you do not lose touch with an old friend. Be more patient.



Virgo
 Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
 A little time spent tidying up is anything but a waste of time. You should not try to impress others by means of ostentation, you just cannot afford it right now. You are liable to take too much for granted, don't. Be amicable.



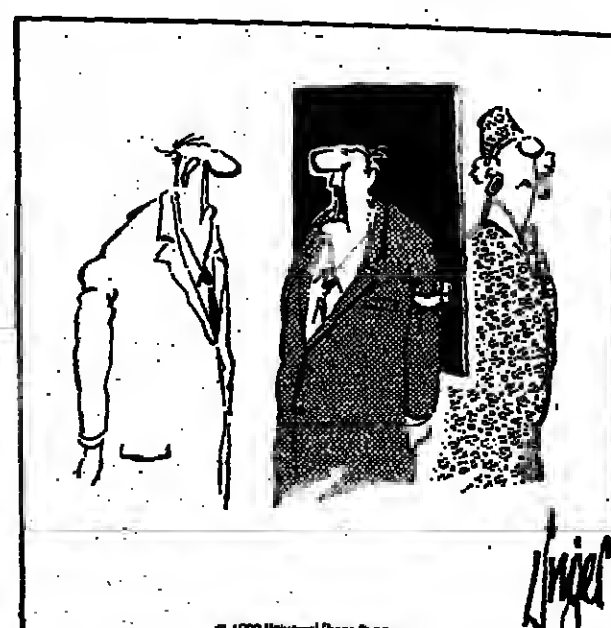
Sagittarius
 Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
 A persistent ache should not be neglected, but nor should you think that the end has come. There is room for a little more optimism, none for complacency. Avoid letting a stranger into a secret. Be considerate.



Pisces
 Feb. 20 - March 20
 What did not have high hopes of will turn out to be much better than expected. You should not make too much noise and should try to keep out of the way of noise, too. Take a little more care about your personal appearance. Be less extravagant.



"Her sister's making 10 bucks a week."



"We can't stand the sight of each other."

Cebu backs bill

CEBU CITY. (ANFI): The Senate bill calling for the creation of the Philippine Consumers Commission (PCC) has received the strong backing from a cross section of the Cebuano community.

The support was manifested during a public hearing held at the Sacred Heart Centre here this week with Sen. Orlando Mercado, chairman of the Senate committee on trade and commerce and author of Senate Bill No. 272, otherwise known as the Consumer Code, presiding.

Among those who strongly endorsed the Maralco bill were Msgr. Achille Dakay, president of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry; representatives of non-government organisations and some civic clubs.

The Philippine Consumers Commission, as proposed by Mercado, will work towards the protection of consumers against trade malpractices and sub-standard products.

"The commission will be an independent regulatory body with powers and functions geared towards the best interests of the consumers," Mercado told Asian News & Features.

Among the commission's power and duties are: to safeguard the consuming public by preventing the dissemination of false, fraudulent or deceptive advertisement of consumer products; to establish mandatory product safety standards, and where appropriate, to reduce the unreasonable risk of injury to consumers from consumed products.

Dr Virginia Basaca-Sevilla

HER first words after we'd said "hello" were: "Why me? There is nothing extraordinary about me, nothing to write about in magazine. Why did you choose me as the subject for this interview?"

Dr Virginia Basaca-Sevilla is an authority on Aids or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Today, there is a fear and danger from Aids and anyone who knows the answers to the questions people ask about dreaded disease, deserves a spot in an interview. Dr Sevilla answers such questions. She gives lectures on Aids, awareness to medical and paramedical groups, students, civic and religious organisations. She now combines such talks with Hepatitis B awareness and has appeared on TV and given radio interviews on the subject. She was the Department of Health Consultant on Aids until January 31, 1990, after her retirement as Director of the Bureau of Research Laboratories, also of the DOH. But Dr Sevilla does not consider herself the foremost authority on Aids in the Philippines. "Let's just say that I am a pioneer on Aids surveillance in the country."

Talking to Dr Sevilla made me forget about Aids because the person that she is, is more interesting than the virus. Although she considers herself an ordinary person and a simple government employee, she is a medical researcher par excellence. Her simple philosophy as a person and a government employee and her achievements in medical research deserve highlighting her more than the dangers and death that the Aids virus can cause, because Dr Sevilla can give few pointers that could make out people in government today more effective to their own modest spheres.

She says of herself as a person: "I have always been poor. My parents were government employees like myself. My father was chief of the Biological Research Division of the then National Institute of Science and Technology while my mother was cashier and disbursing officer of the same institute. As a medical student in the University of the Philippines, I used to borrow books from my classmates and graduated because of their generosity. Up to this day, none of my classmates has thrown to my face the fact that I have debt of gratitude."

Poverty is of course, relative. May would consider Dr Sevilla Maoy would consider Dr Sevilla a scientist like herself. Her mother was employed even at a time when women stayed at home. She herself is married to a doctor,



Dr Virginia

Dr Josue Sarmiento Sevilla with whom she has a son and three daughters, all professionals.

Maybe the reason she emphasizes her supposed poverty is to bring home the point that poverty or the lack of material things is no hindrance to success.

She graduated from the U.P. College of Medicine in 1945 and this she considers as a gift from God. "Always ask yourself the questions. Why am I here on earth? Then relate your answer to your Creator. You are here to serve God through your neighbor. You realise that you are richly gifted. You have an obligation to use your gifts maximally and share them with others."

During all her working years, and even now with her lectures, Dr Sevilla keeps in close touch with her Creator by offering her work as her daily prayer. "My work is my prayer, and so I do it well that it might be acceptable to him."

As a government employee, Dr Sevilla has experienced the lack of so many things — funds, facilities, even the very basic materials needed for research work. In scientific research especially, there is so much that we lack in this Third World coun-

try, but Dr Sevilla is undaunted. "Never complain about what your government cannot give you. You are there, you owe it to your government to be resourceful. Your ingenuity can supply what the government cannot. Learn to devise. Be innovative. Know how to make shortcuts, but short cuts that must be acceptable to the scientific world."

It was this very lack of things made Dr Sevilla and her team of researchers invent a culture medium for cultivating tubercle bacilli using coconut water and palm egg. It is known as "The Coconut Water Egg Malachite Green Medium (CEM) for the isolation of Mycobacterium tuberculosis" which won First Prize or the Presidential Award from the Philippine Inventors' Society in the Pharmaceutical and Chemical Category. In the course of using the medium, Dr Sevilla later on discovered that it was also good for the culture of diptheria and bacillus anthracis.

She has also been awarded Second Prize Research Winner by the Manila Medical Society in 1976 for the development of a culture medium for the isolation of Vibrio Cholera, which is known as "A Nutrient Agar Bile Salts Medium (Nabs)." Both inventions have been patented and used in Philippine laboratories instead of the more expensive traditional mediums.

Dr Sevilla has so many awards that one wonders which she values most. She was one of the "Most Outstanding Women in Medicine Through the Years, the Most Outstanding Physician in Government Service in 1977, and a recipient of the Achievement Award given by the National Research Council of the Philippines, now the Philippine National Science Society."

The doctor takes her awards in stride. Even now, she is winning more. Recently, she was named the 1990 Women of Distinction award by the Soroptimist International in Kalookan City.

As a medical researcher, Dr Sevilla abides by one rule: "Never exploit any human being for the sake of research. If you think that your vaccine is good enough to test on a human being, then be willing to be your first patient. Try it on yourself first. You have an obligation to protect even prisoners and mental patients. That is compassionate service. If your vaccine fails, throw it out. There can be no compromise where human life is involved." DK

From the provinces

LAOAG CITY: Ten people were killed and nine others were critically injured when an overloading jeepney rambled on Laoag-Airport Avenue in barangay Nalbu.

Police said four of the victims died on the spot, while the others expired at the provincial hospital in Laoag. Investigation showed that the jeep was overtaking a pedicab when the driver lost control of the steering wheel. The jeep was a total wreck.

Among the fatalities were Rosendo Tambua, Avehno Casit, Vilma Tolentino, Marilyn Aguinaldo, Violeta Tambua, Romulo Ancheta, Rose Ferrales, and Anifres Cristobal, the driver.

QUEZON CITY: A businessman who bought a batamax set from a store in Cubao, Quezon City has asked the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to advise the public to buy electronics goods only from duly accredited suppliers so they could avail themselves of warranty against factory defects in case the unit bogs down.

Arthur A. Clavo of Project 3, QC, who filed a complaint with the DTI against Penny's Electronics and General Merchandise located at No 18 Araneta Coliseum Arcade, Cubao, said the warning will make prospective buyers of batamax sets and other electronics items to become careful.

Clavo related that he bought the Sony video batamax set from Penny's Electronics for P5,650. He said that when he asked the warranty card for the set, he was told by Ms Lina Amnigales, sales manager, that she will just indicate the six-month service guarantee in the sales invoice.

He said he gave the batamax set to his mother-in-law as a gift. He said his mother-in-law complained that the set did not function well even after a technician was hired to install and operate it.

"When I brought back the set to Penny's Electronics so it could be checked and examined by the store technician, I was asked to pay P1,250 for the service," Clavo said. "I refused to pay since the service was still covered by the warranty so I went directly to the police station to complain about the matter."

Clavo said DTI chief legal officer Maximino U. Mercado started hearing his complaint on Nov 10, 1989. The second hearing was held May 4, 1990 and the last was May 16. He said he was informed that Penny's Electronics was not a dealer of Solid Corp., a licensee of Sony Corp. of Japan.

QUEZON CITY: Quezon City Mayor Brigid R. Simoo Jr lashed at officials of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) for its "small-paced testing" of medicine samples which has consequently hampered the delivery of basic health services to the indigents in the city.

The mayor criticised the BFAD after he discovered that some P102,000 worth of medicines which were scheduled for distribution to the city's depressed areas last year were lying idle at the offices of the City hall's health department.

The medicines, consisting of drugs for common ailments, TB, and vitamins, were bought by the city government last October but health authorities have yet to distribute them due to the failure of the BFAD to finish testings on the samples.

Under present Department of Health guidelines, only the BFAD is authorised to approve the distribution of the medicines. The same agency conducts testings of drugs coming from all health offices throughout the country.

"With this centralised setup, we can now understand why a government which considers health as among its prime concerns."

PASAY CITY: Pasay City Rep. Lorna Verano Yap has assailed the placing of debt payments above basic social services such as health, housing, and education.

Debt servicing, she said, is the largest item in the national budget for 1990, constituting 44 per cent. Because the Constitution provides that the highest item before education, "debt service to the present extent is patently unconstitutional," she said.

Verano Yap made this remarks in a speech at the 7th International Policy Conference of the US-Asia Institute which ended.

She also deplored the situation whereby the government "must automatically appropriate debt servicing in

our budget (while) the Americans may only exert its 'best efforts' to secure for us what they owe us for the bases."

The government's import liberalisation policy, she said, puts the country in a disadvantaged position. For "while we must accept any and all kinds of products from industrial countries, the United States imposes quota limitations on our major products like sugar, coconut, oil and textile."

MANILA: The Department of National Defense (DND) announced a P500,000 reward for any information leading to the capture of former Cagayan governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

In a related development, a group of businessmen in Angeles City and Mabalacat in Pampanga raised a P100,000 cash reward for the arrest of the communist gunmen who killed two American servicemen in Dau early this week.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, AFP acting chief of staff, said the reward is being offered in an effort to intensify the manhunt for Aguinaldo. The former governor is being hunted for his participation in the December 1989 coup attempt and the attack on Delfino Hotel in Iguaguegarao, Cagayan a few weeks ago.

Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos said that the reward is being offered to any person who will furnish military authorities with information on the whereabouts of Aguinaldo.

He was lately seen roaming around the mountains near the borders of Cagayan and Kalinga-Apayao. He reportedly disguised as an old woman. The military said he was carrying with him some P5 million to cash which he reportedly withdrew from a bank in Cagayan.

In a press conference, Ramos announced that two of the five suspects in the killing of Airmen John H. Raven and James C. Green in Dau, Pampanga early this week have been positively identified.

According to a report to Ramos by Brig. Gen. Manuel Bana, Recon 3 commander, "eyewitness account" enabled the military to draw composite sketches of the suspects which the authorities later showed to detained communist "hitmen."

ILOILO CITY: The Court of Appeals has upheld the 60-day preventive suspension order issued by Local Government Secretary Luis T. Santos against Iloilo City Mayor Rodolfo T. Gonzon, the Department of Local Government.

Lawyer Nicanor M. Patricio, director of the DLG legal service, said his office received a copy of the decision dismissing outright the petition of Gonzon seeking to prohibit the DLG secretary from enforcing the suspension order and installing Iloilo City Mayor Manzuetto Malabon as acting mayor.

In a four-page decision, the Court of Appeals, through Justice Arturo B. Buena, and Associate Justices Conrado T. Limaco and Socorro Tirona Liwag, denied the mayor's petition for not being in due form and substance.

In dismissing Gonzon's petition, the court noted that contrary to his allegation that there is no plain speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law, the mayor has the right to an administrative appeal to the President from the order of suspension.

Gonzon was suspended from office last May 4 by Santos in connection with a complaint filed against him with the DLG for abuse of authority and misconduct.

Patricio said two complaints were received by the DLG last February and March, charging the mayor of illegal closure of the Ililo Coliseum and of deliberately refusing to approve or sign the salaries and allowances of local officials in Ililo.

MANILA: President Aquino was urged in Congress to unconditionally freeze tuition fee increases in private schools pending determination of the reasonableness of these additional school fees.

Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano (KBL, Isabela) asked the President to exercise his emergency powers, if necessary, to "protect our young people's right to education at reasonable cost."

Albano, formerly the House minority floor leader, said verified reports reaching him indicate that this month, many private schools conducting early or pre-enrolment proceedings have begun collecting tuition fees "conditionally hiked" by as much

as 30 to 50 per cent. He said the labelling of these increases as "conditional" is merely a subterfuge to circumvent the legal requirement of prior consultation with parents before any tuition adjustment could be made.

"And we know that no parent can enrol his or her child without paying the hiked tuition fees, and that for all intents and purposes, the conditional rate will be the final rate to be collected by the schools," he added.

Albano proposed the imposition of stringent controls such as the examination of the books and finances of private schools and the certification of parents' organisations in each grade or year level before any tuition increase is allowed.

He recalled that he filed two years ago a bill incorporating these controls and limiting tuition fee increases to not more than 15 per cent in any given year.

"If President Aquino truly fees for the low-income Filipino parents who already hard-put in making both ends meet as well as the young who will be effectively robbed of their right to education when their parents cannot come across with the increased school fees, she should use her emergency powers to impose immediately a unilateral freeze on tuition and other school fees," Albano said.

MANILA: Two leading experts in pollution control technology were here for the national convention and technical seminars of the pollution control association of the Philippines.

The experts — Richard J. Socolich and Nicholas Kachman — delivered talks at PCAPI's "Ecology for Progress" conference. They were also available for consultations as well as plant visits to various companies during their stay. Their trip was sponsored by the World Environment Centre in New York and the US Agency for International Development.

PCAPI president Francisco P. Guanzon welcomed the participation of the foreign guests, saying "their trip was very important and necessary for a two-way technology and experience exchange."

Socolich is director of infrastructure projects of Kaiser Engineers Inc. based in Oakland, California.

Kachman is assistant director for pollution control of General Motors in Detroit, Michigan.

MANILA: Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos ordered an investigation of the bombing of Thomas Jefferson Centre in Makati.

The order was issued as police probes suspected that the bombing was the handiwork of either a "ultra-rightist" group or leftist force protesting the existence of the US bases in the country.

A report received by the Department of National Defense at Camp Aguinaldo said a group of unidentified persons on board a yellow taxicab fired two grenade rifles at Accorred building at 369 Buendia Ave. in Makati at about 9:30 am. No one was reported injured in the morning blast.

The Philippine government had earlier assured Americans that utmost security measures will be adopted by the military to protect them from attacks by anti-bases groups.

It said, however, that it could not guarantee 100-per cent safety for Americans in the country as the New People's Army (NPA) or other groups are undertaking "hit-and-run" tactics.

Brig. Gen. Emiliano Templo, chief of the Armed Forces Civil Military Operations (C-MO), said the NPA is again engaged in a "show of force" because it is the only thing rebels could do to show an image of strength.

Templo said the recent spate of NPA attacks on American servicemen and US facilities indicated that the rebels could only resort to the "hit-and-run style."

Meanwhile, military probes are questioning three children who were playing near the area where two American servicemen were killed a few days ago.

The military also invited for questioning two tricycle drivers who allegedly witnessed the shooting of US Airman John Raven and James Green.

Raven and Green, both on rest and recreation in the Philippines, were walking near the lobby of Holiday Lodge Hotel when two unidentified men approached and shot them. Their companion, Randall Moore, was escaped unhurt.

Filipinos in Kuwait

The road to success is endless

By Ruffy E. Sanchez

WELFARE officer, Alejandro Samia Santos, of the Philippine embassy, deals with numerous problems of overseas workers in Kuwait especially the domestic helpers who were maltreated by their employers.

The nature of this job requires a lot of time, effort and patience yet he considers his job fulfilling and rewarding in many ways. According to him — helping the destitutes is associated with serving God. From morning till night, Andy's time is mostly occupied in attending to the different cases of Filipina servants.

He is frequently seen in police stations, detention centres, immigration offices, and airport and courts to discuss and settle legal problems confronting the domestics.

Andy is a product of prominent schools in the Philippines. He spent his elementary and secondary education at Ateneo de Manila. He also studied in La Salle University and transferred to the University of the East where he completed his BSc in business administration, majoring in marketing.

After graduation, he decided to manage the family farm instead of working in a private or government corporation.

He is almost on the brink of success and yet there are always barriers along the way but he never gives up. Born with a silver spoon in his mouth, his family owns vast lands in the province of Pampanga. He never abused such wealth instead, he himself propagated and enriched the lands. He helped the farmers by lending loans to them without interest and educated them through his voracious reading about agriculture on the proper ways of tilling the lands, application of fertilizers and other scientific methods of farming. His hardships and initiatives earned him a distinction of which he was featured in

one of the country's leading newspapers, "Times Journal" for harvesting 170 cavans of palay per hectare which normally the maximum is only 60. Due to some agrarian reforms, his family decided to sell the lands to the government and in compliance to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform programme of President Aquino, lands were equally distributed to the tenants.

Life for Andy was always a cycle of frustrations and temporary success. Trying to forget his sad experience in life, he travelled in various parts of the world: Europe, Canada and United States. After relaxation and enjoying the wonders of the world, he proceeded to Kuwait for a short visit to his brother who was then the district sales manager of the Philippines Airlines. His sojourn here was a sort of discovering another luck. While winning some Filipino friends, this Gemini adventurer landed again in another lucrative job.

Andy humbly recalled that he applied as a cook in that once prosperous food chain. The owner upon seeing him and after reading his resume was lukewarm in accepting him since there was no vacancy that suited his qualifications. He got the job and started to work directly in the different sections of the office. He worked as a clerk, a secretary and an accountant in contrast to the original position he applied for. Due to his honesty and excellent job performance his small salary was doubled only in just a week's time. Little did he know that everything was just a preparation for a managerial post. He was promoted as an administrative manager and later left the company due to his dissatisfaction of incompetent and corrupted staff.

There were really bad times for him when his career was absolutely dormant. But the door of opportunity is always open for this guy who once dreamt of becoming a priest. His intensive travelling around the globe has always been his common denominator to see and experience the realities of life. Most of the time he met some Filipino domestics who were afflicted of human abuses and from there he thought of helping them. Without a second thought he saw himself applying for an available position at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in Manila, a sub-agency of the Department of Labour and Employment. "God is always with me," he quipped after passing the examinations and interview of the screening committee composed of the different officers of OWWA.

Andy is also designated the embassy assistant labour attaché, a very optimistic and determined to minimise the problems of Filipino women who are abused and exploited by unscrupulous recruiters by modifying and revising the employment contracts. He hopes someday that his desire to uplift the status of Filipino workers in Kuwait would turn into sheer realities.

A pious Roman Catholic, he firmly believes men are equal in the eyes of God and cultivates the golden rule: "Do unto others what you would like them do unto you."

And, beneath his hefty frame lies a thousand loads of thorny experiences and yet he's always on the road searching for that endless quest of success.



Grace Fe N. Covarrubias

Maraming Salamat sa inyong lahat

THIS year I have been chosen as one of the recipients of the Philippine Embassy's "Outstanding Filipinos in Kuwait" award for the recognition of my services to the Filipino community.

I have accepted the award, not for myself, but on behalf of all the Filipinos and friends who have untiringly and unselfishly given a part of themselves so that the less fortunate fellow Filipinos here have someone to turn to in times of distress.

We all know that there are many among us who continue to give and to share their time, talent and blessings so that the hardships we have received are shared.

I also wish to give recognition to the officers of the 1989 Flask executive board, our friends, benefactors and supporters who contributed towards the success of all our projects.

To each and everyone, Maraming Salamat sa inyong lahat.

Grace Fe N. Covarrubias
1990 Toffi Awardee for
Community Service



Andy Samia Santos

FILIPINO DIGEST

SNIPPETS

Soldiers need bullets, not teeth and nails: "Our troops cannot fight with their teeth and nails."

"Arm each soldier with at least 325 rounds of ammunition to be always battle-ready in the campaign against rebels."

Thus did PC chief Maj. Gen. Cesar P. Nazareno direct local constabulary and police commanders in Tacloban City.

In a conference with ranking PC-INP and Army commanders in Eastern Visayas, Nazareno asked them not to expect immediate reinforcement in case of massive rebel attacks.

He said each PC soldier is required to have at least 325 rounds of ammunition, at least 200 of which must be in the magazine, of his firearms.

"There is nothing more frustrating than running out of ammunition when you are still willing to fight," he added.

Ifugao rebels kill three: Camp Dangwa, Benguet — Three soldiers and an undetermined member of New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed when they fought in Sitio Uba, Barangay Hapao, Hungduan, Ifugao.

The soldiers were identified as constables Carmelito Cortez, Romy Miguel and Arturo Asuncion.

Wounded were two other constables known only as Manzano and Ambros.

Maj. Mel Tia said the soldiers led by Maj. Conrado Poregrino and Lt. John Luglog were on patrol when they encountered some 100 NPA members.

After seven hours, the rebels retreated, Tia said.

Tia added that an NPA amazon surrendered to military officials in Barangay Bulabao, Daduk, Kalinga-Apayao.

He identified her as Dety Bungan, 18, and quoted her as saying she could no longer endure life under one "Ka Brix."

Auction off confiscated items — President

President Corazon Aquino instructed Customs Commissioner Salvador Mison to immediately auction off to the public all seized items, including luxury cars.

After witnessing the public auction at the Bureau of Customs Social Hall, the President ordered Mison to ignore those who would yield influence to own confiscated vehicles through negotiated sale.

"We will dispose the vehicles particularly the luxury cars, through an auction that will be open to all," Mison said.

In disposing luxury cars through public auction the bureau will no longer need to turn over confiscated vehicles to the Asset Privatization Trust (APT).

Asked by President Aquino how much could be earned from the sale of seized items, Mison answered P2.8 billion.

Port of Manila collector Tinas Villanueva said a public auction will be held weekly so that by June 8 some 80 per cent of seized items stored in warehouses shall have been sold.

The President was accompanied also by Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Customs Deputy Commissioner Isaura Garcia to the Customs security warehouse.

Go to the courts — Carino

Education Secretary Isidro advised oppositors of the new tuition guidelines to question their legality before the courts.

Carino explained that the guidelines were formulated not by him but by the State Assistance Council (SAC).

Various school organizations criticised the guidelines as illegal since they allow tuition fee increases without consultation with students and parents.

Carino and consultation is considered fulfilled once the parents or students sign the school statement of accounts.

The guidelines state that tuition increases for second, third and fourth year students should be based on the previous year's tuition rates plus the equivalent of one-half of the current inflation rate, he said.

"If they (opponents) can convince me that there's something wrong with what we have approved, then we can convene the SAC to modify the guidelines," Carino said.

'Lascivious' suspect shot dead

A man undergoing investigation for an alleged act of lasciviousness was shot dead by a policeman who earlier arrested him in Barangay Lico, San Rafael, Bulacan.

Noel Asuncion, 23, of Barangay Pohacion, San Rafael died on the spot from a bullet wound in the chest. He was shot by Pat. Jaime Tadeo who claimed that Asuncion grabbed his gun.

Pat. Tadeo alleged that Asuncion was being questioned at the police station when he tried to escape and grabbed his gun.

2 Zamboanga boys drown

Two boys drowned when they were trapped in a culvert in a creek near the runway of the Zamboanga International Airport.

Police identified the victims as Richard Senialde, 13, and Jeffrey Balingit, 10, both residents of Canelar Moret St, Zamboanga City.

Their companion, Enrique Oniana, told police five of them were playing at the side of the runway when they decided to go to the nearby creek and swim.

Strong, swift currents carried them away and Senialde and Balingit were trapped in the culvert. The two shouted for help but no rescuers came.

The parents of the boys had sent the two boys to the National Food Authority (NFA) store near the airport runway to buy rice.

Passersby pulled out the two boys from the culvert and rushed them to the Zamboanga General Hospital where they died.

Cop shoots trader

A police officer allegedly shot a rich businessman from Bauang, La Union inside a cockpit.

Spot reports to the La Union PC command have identified the suspect as Lieut. Ledemir Detran, police station commander of Balaocan, this province.

William Chua of Bauang, La Union, was reportedly hit in the neck.

NBK officer Herana Castro said doctors had declared Chua out of dangers, although he was still under sedation.

Castro refused to give further details about the shooting, merely saying that the authorities are looking into the case.

La Union PC provincial commander, Lieut. Col. Renato Paredes, ordered a thorough investigation and instructed his men to take proper action against those involved.

Paredes' directives was in compliance with the order of Region 1 command chief Brig. Gen. Miguel Abaya.

Communist rebel arrested

for bombing sports facility

MANILA, June 23, (UPI): Government troops arrested a communist rebel who admitted involvement in the December bombing of the US Seafront Sports and Recreation Facility in Manila, the national police chief said today.

Maj. Gen. Cesar Nazareno identified the guerrilla as Jose Llesis a senior member of the rebel political staff, who was captured Thursday night during a raid on his hideout in Cainta Town, on the eastern suburb of the capital.

Nazareno said in a statement Llesis admitted he was among eight rebels in a van who fired two rifle grenades inside the Seafront compound, about a mile (2 km) from the US embassy, last Dec 14, 1989, causing minor damage but no casualties.

Seafront serves as a sports centre and housing area for US military and diplomatic personnel.

Llesis said the attack was jointly carried out by the north and east sector commands of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the communist hit squad operating in the 13 towns and four cities of metropolitan Manila, the statement said.

The ABB, which began a terror drive in the capital in 1987 after the collapse of peace talks with communist rebels, has been blamed for the killings of 78 lawmen and civilians this year.

The statement said Llesis claimed guerrillas staged the attack to "heighten" the "political discourse" following the Dec 1-9 coup attempt in which 119 people were killed and nearly toppled president Corazon Aquino.

The guerrillas made it appear that the attack was staged by military rebels to express opposition to the "persuasion flights" by US jets during the first day of the coup and helped turn the battle in favour of government forces, it said.

Llesis also admitted involvement in the killings of five ranking police officers since last year as a member of the "Special Partisan Operations Team," the statement said.

What makes the Filipino woman of the '90s click?

A WOMAN'S awareness of herself as a special human being destined for greatness infiltrates all activity. Galvanized to action by both energy and dreams, the woman with drive wants whatever's out there and in abundance: The most prestigious career, remarkable skills, travel, money galore. Her species: *Rara avis*. Her credo: Go for it!

You probably know at least one such dynamo — the girl-friend who cancels a date, perhaps, to finish an important project, or willingly stays up half the night struggling over a manuscript. This woman, most likely, has risen from proofreader to associate editor in merely three years, but the promotion hasn't relaxed her a bit; if anything, she's working harder. You wonder what secret vitamin makes her press on so single-mindedly. Finally, you realize. She has high level drive.

Some say that such women are headed for unhappiness, but the highly motivated are usually too busy directing their considerable energies toward money, excellence, recognition, and power to even care about such

opinions. They know real accomplishment entails struggle, but to these spirited ladies, striving is all part of the fun!

Studies of super-achievers have produced an impressive list of requisite characteristics. A cultural profile of a person most likely to get ahead would be an oldest sibling who grew up in a small, non-authoritarian middle-class family headed by a college graduate who is himself or herself an achiever (that's according to an expert who says that if both parents are well-educated, so much the better). For women, a further stipulation exists. Research indicates that daughters of fathers who appreciated their femininity, yet didn't apply sexual role restrictions on such areas as expertise, activity, or goals, saw no conflict between professional achievement and womanliness in adulthood, and were therefore free to get ahead.

Certain personal traits are crucial as well. These highly motivated women are brimming with confidence, assertiveness, and creativity. They're also adept at making decisions, they

welcome responsibility, and are extraordinarily tenacious, productive and focused.

In the end, success isn't so much a matter of the qualities a woman has, as what she wants, however. Aims may range from freedom and self-actualization to prestige and wealth (to some, the four are synonymous), but whatever the motivation, drive equals directed energy and ambition — and to possess it, a woman must first have a strong sense of self.

Autonomy is indeed essential for continued high levels of success. Only a person who's aware of her own needs and intent on fulfilling them can define goals, make meaningful decisions, act. Such a woman perceives herself as a legitimate entity. She's not terribly dependent on others for a feeling of worth.

This isn't to say that self-determination rules out delight in lovers, friends, close family contacts, but it does indicate an awareness that your own wants matter. Only by acquiring a degree of self-reliance can a woman sustain individual purpose — through unhappy affairs

and influenza attacks, in the face of disapproval, despite many disappointments.

Is the supremely motivated self-starter human? Of course. Actually, more so than ever, in the sense that in today's world, both women and men are finding it necessary to adopt some of the other sex's traditional traits to survive. One result of the new androgyny is that females are indeed increasingly aggressive and competitive. They have to be, in order to make it in the marketplace. However, a winning mixture of enterprise and charm is often hard to maintain, especially in tense, fast-paced professions. And many women themselves, particularly in our country where the Maria Clara image still persists, won't tolerate an aggressive female. Yet the woman we're talking about here is openly ambitious, single-minded and likes to win.

Another problem, particularly for the Filipina is that she has been brought up to play a supportive role. Even if she works — and most do these days — husband and children generally come first, which effectively

diminishes professional energy and achievements. In short, autonomy simply isn't a value that our society encourages in women. We're referring to a sense of independence, a clear sense of identity, very clear and very strong. We tend to have to prove to ourselves that we can perform before we quite believe it.

Despite such obstacles, trends in education and employment indicate that more of us than ever are aiming higher and preparing for careers. Knowledge and skills alone aren't enough, however. The woman with drive isn't awarded freedom or handed options; she demands and takes them — and sometimes this type of motivation and focus outweighs the lack of formal training.

In other words, it is in courageous, confident action where lies the potential for great achievement. When an authority speaks of the willingness to take risks as being crucial to success, he doesn't necessarily mean the go-for-broke sort, but rather that the achiever must meet challenges and gamble when the odds

are in her favour. Such "risks" might entail learning a new skill, promotion into a higher salary, more demanding job, engaging in competition, aggressively exploring new dimensions in any given field.

When you talk to truly motivated women, you find they're rarely threatened by the opportunity to test potential. This, as many experts would agree, is due in part to confidence in their basic ability to succeed, and also because whenever in danger of failing, they simply work harder.

Implicit in this type of action, of course, is the ability to weigh the risk involved... but if women see venturing into new territory solely as being fraught with danger, they'll operate far less effectively than those who view the process as a chance to grow and get ahead. The closer women come to figuring out the gain side of risk, and acting to make it happen, the more successful they are.

Success isn't all single-minded purpose and a taste for adventure — drive means hard work.



Maria Clara

A modern Maria Clara

SHE is comfortable with her personality, her talents and is cool, strong and sophisticated. The businesswoman in Evelyn Cases is so strong that anyunkind blow that fate would have dealt her would only make her stronger than ever.

In matters of the heart, Evelyn leaves it to fate. She has been bitten once and never again would it be repeated. Much of the pleasure of love, courtship and marriage have left her flail and next time, she says, she'll let her head rule over her heart. Now that she's free again and very much on the single file, she's turned her intellect into being a shrewd business mogul.

This charming model-like owner-proprietor of Ultimo Concepts, Inc. thinks and acts independently, trying to get out in the world and make it on her own.

"If I am tied to someone like before, I would not be as successful as I am now," she revealed. "This is my way of accomplishing an opportunity for growth. I do not want to stagnate by just being a housewife or an employee. I'd like to do something from my own sweat and blood and be a good example to my children later."

Ultimo Concepts, Inc. is a boutique with clothes from casuals to formal designed by Paris-educated trained Louis Mamengo. It has a branch in Landmark but its main store and factory is at Kamagong where her office is also found. Last year, Evelyn produced a very successful 100-piece collection in New York with Mamengo-designed clothes which the New Yorkers received enthusiastically. Infact, almost 90 per cent of the clothes were sold. Because Evelyn herself is a well-dressed lady, one finds only the best at Ultimo.

Evelyn worked at Wrangler's as merchandise manager for nine and a half years before she put up her own business. With a little prodding from friends, she formed the Mave International Trading, Inc. with friends who

were her former colleagues from PAL. She was also a former international flight stewardess from PAL and even then believed that the Filipino-made products can compete with the best in the world. She is really not new to the garment business because of her wealth of experience dealing with clothes.

Likewise, this smart lady worked for a time with Paar, a sister company of American jeans which manufactures Snoopy (children's jeans and Texwood jeans). She was in charge of the ladies wear department but as assistant general manager, she also handled the merchandising, advertising and purchasing division of the company.

"The world of woman today is limitless," she observed. "Before, our parents taught us that women are only helping hands to their spouses but today, women work side by side with their partners. Sometimes they're even better. Not that I belittle men, I don't. It's just that women nowadays conquer worlds of their own, are more independent and liberated and have become achievers in their fields of endeavours. As an example, we have a woman for our president, women senators and congresswomen, members of the Supreme Court, women lawyers, doctors, engineers, etc. Women now are more creative, talented, daring and courageous."

Evelyn travels a good deal, sometimes seven or eight times a year either for pleasure or business but mostly for the latter. She attends garment fairs for these are a "must" in her itinerary.

"I always believe that if one is clothes-conscious then she should attend garment fairs especially if she owns a boutique. It helps one in updating her knowledge of fashion and what fabrics are new in the market. There are samples being exhibited by manufacturers from all over the world and just to look at them is fascinating. Sometimes I get the urge to order

all of them because they're all so beautiful. But then, you're limited by your pocketbook so we only take what's best. Garment fairs are a good chance for people like us who are engaged in the fashion industry to choose what's the next trend in the coming year."

Evelyn's business administration degree comes in handy with her work. She regrets, however, that she did not turn to fashion designing after getting her degree because she was so interested in clothes even when she was still in her teens. As it is now, she just clarifies verbally what designs she wants for this or that material and her designer executes them.

Modern in her views, Evelyn, however, has still a wee bit of the Maria Clara in her. Although she may appear ultra modern in her manner of dressing and actions, she still believes in letting a man pursue her and not vice-versa.

"Even if it's leap year, I'll never propose to a man," she says. "It's very awkward. I don't know with other women, but I'd have gooseskin all over me if and when I do that."

Because she's tall and slim, people take a sound look when she passes by, thinking she's one of those ramp models one always sees in fashion shows. Evelyn dresses not for other people but for herself. Her good taste in clothes and the accessories that go with them gives her so much self-confidence.

Hobbies? She has a weakness for dancing and goes to discos in the company of friends. She also enjoys going out of town in resorts where she can commune with nature.

Evelyn is a patient woman. She has that habit of letting off steam in the quiet confines of her office or at home, if someone or something crosses her. She is never vengeful and does not cultivate hate in her heart.

"Someday, somehow, something good will come out of the hurt," she philosophizes. "I'd rather leave it all to him."

The coming out parties

MANY years ago, every young girl was trained to be a housewife. In the early days, they are given the learning process in the art of home management. They are taught to clean the house, cook for the family and sew clothes for the husband and children. Life was then oriented towards family life.

It was much simpler then. The husband works for the support of the family while the wife makes home for the family. The children are trained and educated according to their stations in life.

Young girls are given the training to make good housewives. They have the cloistered existence. When they reach the age of 18, they are formally introduced to society. It means that they are ready to meet the young men who may eventually become their husbands. It is known as coming out party or debut.

In the Philippines, anybody who celebrates her 18th birthday calls her party a debut. The innovation is indeed a comedy of errors. For some young ladies have come out many times, they need not to be introduced to society at all.

Take the case of Diana Jeanne Lopez. Some years ago, one society matron asked Don Enrique Lopez if his daughter will have a debut. And Don Enrique said, "no." His reason: "only those who are unknown need introduction." Well, the legendary beauty that DJ is indeed needs no further introduction. For a young lady who has been in the limelight since age 14, she really needed no coming out party.

One very laudable project for young ladies is the Opera Ball at the Century Park Sheraton. Every year, the selected young ladies are formally introduced to Manila's society. These young girls come from affluent families. And the project helps in some charity projects like the building of an orphanage.

This year, one of the young ladies who was introduced is Leah Leonor. She is the daughter of the very popular society figure Nene Leonor and businessman Jun Leonor. True to her mold, she is in the more artistic pursuits like sketching, reading and writing. She is well travelled too.

In contrast, we have some movie stars who think a debut is an exercise that will give them legitimacy to Manila's society. A big celebration in a 5-star hotel to announce a star's 18th birthday must be the ultimate in her lifetime. They feel that reaching the age of 18 is a once in a lifetime affair.

One serious thought that must be considered: who are the people who have the right to have a debut? Is there such a thing as Manila's 400 to begin with?

But of course, there are some people who have made money lately, that any excuse to splurge is good enough excuse to give a big party. They call their parties any name except the real reason which is to make public the fact that they have arrived.

But only a few can truly claim membership to the more exclusive of Manila's society.

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

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Leah Leonor

Money talk

(Final part)

JAIME 'JIMMY' ALEGRE was so little-boy excited and pleased with the way it all turned out, he bought Lyna a BMW and in a preparation for the wedding, a whole new wardrobe of expensive clothes. He decided that, under the circumstances, it was needless to wait as long as planned. They would have a secret civil ceremony and, with luck, perhaps the news could leak for some time to come.

They were married at nine o'clock on a Friday morning, and at ten, as promised, Jimmy took Lyn to the bank and deposited a check for one hundred thousand pesos in her account. However, he did spoil his image somewhat by telling her that if by some chance she decided to run off with the money, he would spill the entire can of beans. Lyn didn't believe for one minute that he would do any such thing, but she pretended to be properly impressed.

They were catching a one o'clock plane for the U.S. then on to Hawaii. Jimmy said it was a delightful romantic place to spend a honeymoon, and Lyn agreed that it probably was the best choice. Jimmy was picking Lyn up at her apartment, the shabby one which she had shared with Larry, the one she was seeing for the last time.

Jimmy was in a very good mood. Lyn was in a very bad mood. She was sitting outside. Her bags were packed. She was waiting for him in the hall-way. Lyn only smiled at him. Little Jimmy had made no move to answer the repeated urgent summons of the bell.

It was Larry who finally went to the door and swung it wide. At that moment, if Jimmy wasn't having a heart attack, he was certainly in fearful pain, making horrible faces.

"Hello, Jim," said Larry softly. "Are you okay, friend? I think he's got the seasickness," he told Lyn over his shoulder.

"Come in, Jimmy," Lyn said with a cat smile. "Have a drink — darling. You'll need it. Oh, you will very definitely need a drink, Jimmy dear."

Jimmy made a graceless stumbling sort of entrance, then collapsed into a chair like a punctured balloon.

"Larry?" he said in a hoarse whisper. "Is — is that you, Larry?"

Larry's smile mocked him. It's Larry — Jim. Still a little damp and bruised, but very much alive. And I do thank you for your concern, buddy boy."

Jim groped for words. "How — how could you —"

"Tell him, Lyn," said Larry. "We owe it to him. After all, Jim has been extremely generous."

"Oh, hasn't he though," agreed Lyn. She poured herself a glass of champagne from a bottle which stood in an iced silver bucket beside her. "More champagne, Larry sweet?"

"Why, yes," Larry said expansively. "I believe I will, Jim? No...? In that case, Lyn baby tell him that hundred thousand peso story."

"Basically," Lyn began, "it was a beautifully simple plan. Or would you call it a counter-plan?" She sipped her champagne happily. "Of course I had the advantage of being a spy in the enemy camp, so to speak. You see, Jimmy, pet, I brought home to Larry every step of your naughty little scheme, and Larry took those steps apart and figured, oh so cleverly, cleverly, how to resist them, make them work for us."

"To get our show on the road, we had to have money for certain expenses. What would we ever accomplish without money in this world? Right, Jimmy? Imagine my surprise when, after only a little prodding, dear Jimmy himself paid our expenses handsomely with a check for ten thousand."

"Gambling on success, Larry quit his ridiculous little job the same day I got the check. His thin, underfed wallet now fat with your money, he went right down and grabbed a plane to Cebu. From there he caught another plane and went island hopping."

"Naturally, he stopped at the very same islands where that lovely cruise ship was scheduled to make port. And can you guess what Larry was hunting? Well, I won't keep you in suspense. He was searching for one of those charter fishing boats."

"Isce you're beginning to get the, uh — what was it you called it, Jimmy? Oh, yes, the picture! Anyway, this charter boat had to be just right. It had to be large, and fast. Also, the captain and his mate had to be willing to uh, aid and abet, shall we say, a hoax."

"But such types are not always easy to find, and Larry didn't have any luck until he got to Camiguin island. There he found the perfect combination. For a thousand pesos, he hired the boat and the men. Their part was absurdly easy. All they had to do was to follow that brilliantly lit cruise ship out of the island and keep pace with it until the crucial moment. Meanwhile, they ran without lights, hidden well back in the darkness."

"You might be wondering, Jimmy, how we could arrange it so that you would dump Larry overboard on the route from Camiguin island, but we were always in control, could pick our own spot. Remember how Larry played seaisick, and didn't allow himself to become vulnerable until we left the island?"

"Don't be restless, Jimmy I'm not finished. The moment you left the deck, after throwing Larry overboard, I signaled the boat earlier, and Larry had his own water-proof signal light strapped to his body, so that he could be spotted quickly in the dark."

"There were certain risks, it was quite dangerous — and I was truly frightened the whole time. I nearly called it off, but now it all seems worthwhile. Oh, very! Because it's so nice to be rich. Not by your standards, Jimmy, but by your own."

"A hundred thousand is only a hundred thousand, perhaps, but with modest needs, we can live quite decently, thank you, on just the interest."

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

Leah Leonor

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England score 329 for eight

Gooch hammers Kiwis for 85



Graham Gooch

LONDON, June 23, (Reuters): Graham Gooch led from the front as England fought both the New Zealand bowlers and the weather on the second day of the second cricket Test at Lord's yesterday.

The England skipper scored 85 in his side's first innings tally of 329 for eight at the close on a day interrupted three times by rain. Only 50 minutes play had been possible on Thursday's first day.

Gooch and Alec Stewart, resuming at 27 for one, battled through a torrid morning's session against the pace bowling of Danny Morrison and Richard Hadlee. But they survived Morrison's pace and late away swing as well as Hadlee's more subtle skills to give England a solid platform of 101 for one by lunch.

Gooch reached his 31st Test half-century from the fifth ball after lunch and started to hit the ball with all the considerable power at his command.

He clipped Hadlee through the leg side for a boundary and continued with a splendid drive to the long-off boundary of medium-pace Martin Snedden.

Boundaries off off-spinner John Bracewell — one through mid-off and the other past the covers — followed but the New Zealanders then abruptly terminated a flourishing innings by

grasping a fierce caught and bowled chance on a second attempt.

Gooch hit 12 boundaries from 160 deliveries in 202 minutes at the crease.

Meanwhile, Stewart scored his maiden Test half-century with an eight-boundary 54, making his grip on the England number three spot a little firmer, before he was rapped on the pads by Hadlee in front of his stumps.

Vice-captain Allan Lamb signalled his intent with a lively 39 including nine fours, but Neil Fairbrother again disappointed at the highest level.

Fairbrother belied the natural talent he shows at county level with a loose slash at Snedden off only the third ball he received. The ball flew head high to Mark Greatbatch at second slip, who couldn't hold the catch.

Shortly after tea, Fairbrother played an equally irresponsible shot against Bracewell after scoring only two when he lofted an attempted straight hit to Morrison at deep mid-on.

Jack Russell was bowled for 13 playing all around a straight delivery from Hadlee, giving the opportunity for Robin Smith and Phil DeFreitas to prosper in late afternoon sunshine. Smith played with brutal

power off the back foot, scoring his eighth Test half-century off 96 balls with seven boundaries.

He hit a further two fours to take his total to 64 before mistiming a hook off Morrison to mid-on. Bracewell, running with his back to the pitch, took his second brilliant catch of the day with both hands after a full-length drive.

At the close DeFreitas was on 33 and Eddie Hemmings had yet to score.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings	
G. Gooch c and b	85
Bracewell	0
M. Aptherton b Morrison	0
A. Stewart lbw b Hadlee	54
A. Lamb lbw b Snedden	59
R. Smith c Bracewell b Morrison	64
N. Fairbrother c Morrison b Bracewell	2
J. Russell b Hadlee	13
P. DeFreitas not out	33
G. Smith b Morrison	0
E. Hemmings not out	0
Extras (lb 13 nb 22 w 1)	36
Total (for eight wickets)	329
Fall of wickets: 1-3 2-151 3-178 4-216 5-226 6-255 7-319 8-322	
To bat: D. Malcolm	
Bowling to date: Hadlee 28-6-110-2, Morrison 18-4-52-3, Snedden 21-4-72-1, Bracewell 21-3-72-2	
NEW ZEALAND: T. Franklin, J. Wright (captain), A. Jones, M. Crowe, M. Greatbatch, K. Rutherford, R. Hadlee, I. Smith, J. Bracewell, M. Snedden, D. Morrison.	

Berger takes provisional Mexican GP pole spot

MEXICO CITY, June 23, (Reuters): Gerhard Berger only took four laps in his McLaren during yesterday's qualifying run but they were enough to earn the Austrian provisional pole position for tomorrow's Mexican Grand Prix motor race.

Berger went out for the second time late in the session and clocked one minute 17.227 seconds on his fourth tour of the 4.421-km (2.747-mile) Hermanos Rodriguez circuit.

He started from the pole in the season's opening race in Phoenix but his McLaren team-mate Ayrton Senna earned the primary grid position in the next four races.

Briton Nigel Mansell was the only driver to break the 1:18 barrier, but he had to work much harder for his front row position on the provisional grid.

Course

With just two minutes remaining in the session, Mansell charged around the course for the 20th time in his Ferrari in 1:17.938 to push Italian Williams driver Riccardo Patrese back to the second row.

Imola winner Patrese, who clocked 1:18.215, shares the second row of the provisional grid with Senna, who struggled for much of the session.

Senna, who will run his 100th Formula One race on Sunday, had trouble finding the right balance for his McLaren in Mexico City's high altitude and was in an unfamiliar sixth row position with only five minutes remaining.

The Brazilian, who leads the championship with 31 points, 12



Belgian driver Thierry Boutsen is helped from his car during a pit stop. (Reuters wirephoto)

points more than Berger, then clocked 1:18.417 to move from 12th to second quickest.

But Senna, who holds a record 46 poles, was soon pushed back to fourth fastest by Berger and Mansell.

Italian Pierluigi Martini, who was fastest for most of the session with a 1:18.526 in his Minardi, shares the provisional third row with compatriot Stefano Modena in a Brabham.

Frenchman Jean Alesi, who is

fourth in the championship with 13 points, earned a fourth row place in his Tyrrell alongside the Benetton of Brazilian Nelson Piquet.

Belgian Thierry Boutsen was only ninth quickest in his Williams and defending world champion Alain Prost — third in the championship on 14 points — spun his Ferrari off the track and, mabel to restart was forced to watch as his fifth lap 1:19.378 gradually fell to 10th place.

English county cricket results

LONDON, June 23, (Reuters): Results of three-day English County Championship cricket matches ending yesterday.

At Leicester: Leicestershire beat Derbyshire by 140 runs. Leicestershire 320 for six declared in 102.5 overs and 20 for no wicket declared. Derbyshire 70 for no wicket declared and 130 (1). Morris 63; I. Agnew three for 33. W. Benjamin three for 35. Leicestershire 20 points, Derbyshire two.

At Gloucester: Gloucestershire v Hampshire — match drawn. Gloucestershire 54 for two off 20 overs. Match abandoned because of rain with no play for the past two days.

At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Surrey — match drawn. Nottinghamshire 100 in 37.2 overs and 307 (P. Johnson 78, T. Robinson 72; M. Dickwell three for 46). Surrey 303 for three declared in 96.5 overs (D. Ward 154 not out).

Nottinghamshire one point, Surrey eight.

At Bath: Somerset v Glamorgan — match drawn. Somerset 301 for three declared in 83 overs (G. Rose 97 not out, N. Burns 71 not out, J. Cook 61, A. Hayhurst 48) with second innings forfeited. Glamorgan forfeited first innings and 165 for four (A. Butler 83 not out). Somerset four points, Glamorgan one.

At Old Trafford: Middlesex beat Lancashire by five wickets. Lancashire 201 for six declared in 117 overs (G. Mendis 114.1, Austin 45 not out) with second innings forfeited. Middlesex forfeited first innings and 303 for five in their second. (M. Gatling 85, M. Roseberry 79, D. Haynes 49; M. Watkinson four for 61). Middlesex 18 points, Lancashire two.

At Worcester: Worcestershire v Sussex — match drawn. Sussex 280 for three declared in 86 overs (J. Hall 72, N. Leatham 66, M. Speight 60, A. Wells 59) and forfeited their second innings. Worcestershire forfeited first innings and 219 for eight in their second (D. O'Leary 79, I. Botham 50; I. Salisbury five for 32). Worcestershire one point, Sussex three.

At Sheffield: Yorkshire beat Warwickshire by two wickets. Warwickshire 231 in 91.3 overs and 134 for three declared (A. Miles 60 not out, D. Rowe 42 not out). Yorkshire 123 for five in their second. (M. Gatling 85, M. Roseberry 79, D. Haynes 49; M. Watkinson four for 61). Yorkshire 20 points, Warwickshire four.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball games

NEW YORK, June 23, (Reuters): Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday.

American League

Boston 4 Baltimore 3
Minnesota 3 Kansas City 2
N.Y. Yankees 8 Toronto 7
Milwaukee 9 Cleveland 7
Texas 5 Seattle 2
California 1 Detroit 0
Chicago WS 5 Oakland 0

National League

St. Louis 7 Chicago Cubs 0
N.Y. Mets 5 Philadelphia 1
Montreal 4 Pittsburgh 3
Los Angeles 7 Cincinnati 6
San Francisco 4 Houston 3
San Diego 1 Atlanta postponed-rain

Zimbabwe win

AMSTERDAM, June 23, (Reuters): Results of the second semifinal match in the International Cricket Conference (ICC) Trophy yesterday.

Zimbabwe beat Bangladesh by 84 runs. Scores: Zimbabwe 231 for seven (60 overs). Bangladesh 147 all out. Final: Zimbabwe v Netherlands, the Hague, today.

Stuice suspended

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, June 23, (Reuters): Two-time US collegiate shot put champion Mike Stuice has been suspended for two years after testing positive for steroid use, the Athletics Congress (TAC) reported yesterday.

Provisional pole

PORTLAND, Oregon, June 23, (AP): Danny Sullivan led a record-shattering parade in the first round of qualifying yesterday and grabbed the provisional pole position for tomorrow's Budweiser-G.I. Joe's 200 lady-car race.

KPBL games

THE report on Friday's Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) games will be published in tomorrow's issue.

Skah runs year's best 5,000 metres

Christie's 9.95 fastest ever in Britain

ST DENIS, France, June 23, (Reuters): World cross country champion Khalid Skah of Morocco proved he could also shine on track when he clocked the world's best time this year for 5,000 metres at an international athletics meeting yesterday.

In his first race in France since he shocked Kenyan favourites to win that world title in Aix-Les-Bains last March, Skah clocked 13 minutes 16.73 seconds.

Mexico's Arturo Barrios, the world 10,000 metres record holder, was unable to match Skah's sprint in the last stretch and settled for second place in 13:17.17.

Cold and rainy weather at this Paris suburb came as bad news for Olympic champions Paul Ereng of Kenya and Ibrahim Boutayeb of Morocco.

Ereng, the 800 metres gold medalist in Seoul, suffered a rare setback when he was beaten on the line by Burundi's Dieudonne Kwizera. The 22-year-old Kenyan, who only lost once over 800 metres last season, clocked 1:47.93, losing to Kwizera by eight hundredths of a second.

Boutayeb, the Olympic 10,000 metres

champion, was also beaten, but over 1,500 metres, a distance he was only running to perfect his pace. He came second to Portugal's Jose Moreira, who covered the distance in 3:41.34.

● Olympic 100 metres silver medalist Linford Christie ran a wind-assisted time of 9.95 seconds at a triangular athletics meeting in Portsmouth yesterday, the fastest 100 metres ever in Britain.

His time in a match between Britain, the United States and Kenya was quicker than the European mark of 9.97 which he ran at the Seoul Olympics, but a strong following wind of 4.5 metres per second ruled it out for record purposes.

But for another Briton, hurdler Colin Jackson, there was disappointment. Not only did he suffer another crushing sprint hurdles defeat by American Roger Kingdom, he also ended up in a heap on the track after smashing into the last barrier.

Jackson had hoped to use the race as his launch pad to at long last take over as the world's number one from the double Olympic champion.



Skah (No. 78) raises his arms in victory. (Reuters wirephoto)



Kelly (centre) with Millar (left) and Hampsten. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kelly wins cycle race

ZURICH, Switzerland, June 23, (AP): Ireland's Sean Kelly, who broke his collarbone two months ago, cruised to ninth-place finish in the 10th and final stage yesterday and won the Tour of Switzerland cycling race, finishing with a 41-second lead over Robert Millar of Britain.

Kelly finished Friday's 174-kilometre (108.75-mile) stage in the main pack, one minute and 13 seconds behind Kim Andersen and second-place finisher Frank van Den Abele of Belgium. The overall victory was his second in 1,850-kilometre (1,156-mile) Swiss road race. He first won the tour in 1983.

Despite a crash in the Tour of Flanders in April which caused the collarbone injury, the 34-year-old Kelly maintained his 41-second lead throughout the last four stages.

Behind Millar, two-time winner Andrew Hampsten of the United States finished third, 1:04 off Kelly's pace.

For Kelly, a 14-year professional who plans to retire within two years, and other big names including Greg Lemond, the Swiss race was a warmup for the Tour de France, cycling's most prestigious races which begins June 30.

Kabayan rout Far East Bank in opener

KABAYAN Restaurant, in their bid to retain the championship, blanked Far East Bank during the first round match of the Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament, organised by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (FIC-CC), at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

Jigs Acodisen of Far East Bank/City Int'l, playing on Board 3 against Gil Opiana Jr, Group B Blitz King, gave the defending champion the only opposition with their marathon end-game which lasted well over 90 moves. The presence however of Ver Farrales, the Banker's regular

Board 2 player or even one of its alternates Rey Mangon-nong and Silver Salvado, may have given them a better chance.

Al Nuzha Garage, highly regarded as the team with the deepest bench, showed their wares by beating Kirby Building Systems with an almost sweeping win if not for Edwin Borigas, who managed to steal a win against Danny Calassin on Board 2.

Hatid-Ligaya Door-to-Door, boosted by the presence of last year's Board 2 gold medalist Rading Moje, drew with Al Rashed Freight who itself is being spearheaded on Board 1 by last year's Active Chess Champion Nanding Policarpio.



Some of the players in action.

Kabayan (4), Feb/City Int'l (0)

Jun Pacana playing black on Board 1 defeated Thony Monreal when the latter lost his queen in 34 moves of a Sicilian defence. Ely Nacional on Board 4 outmaneuvered Fred Marasigan's Pirc defence in 45 moves. Sammy Aurellano won by default on Board 4.

Al Nuzha (3), Kirby (1)

Board 1 Ingemar Vendiola, Group A Blitz King, bested the Group A Rated Champion Niel Dumlaog in 58 moves of a Slav defence when Niel made a weak 45th move. A king move instead would have won him the game, a post-game analysis revealed. Fred de Nieva, playing on Board 3, captured a pawn on his 25th



Players in post-game analysis.

move which is just enough to claim victory against Baleng Banez 16 moves later. In a separate Slav defence, Felix Sillo on Board 4 blasted Jun



Aranas after only 21 moves.

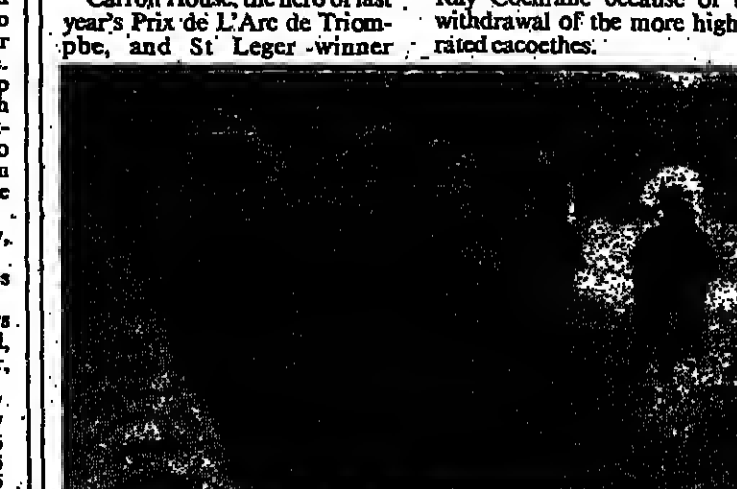
Al Rashed (2), Hatid-Ligaya (2)

Nanding Policarpio out-steaded Jess Betguen in 33

moves of a Caro Kann defence. Jess made a serious miscalculation on his 26th move after an excellent Bishop sacrifice 22nd. Rading Moje playing white against Robert Vargas made a brilliant Knight move on 36th of a King's Indian defence to force the latter to resign 6 moves later. In a Closed Sicilian encounter, newcomer Hermie Corpuz overwhelmed Nilo Magtangob in 57 moves. Nilo lost a piece after a serious blunder on the 21st move.

Second round schedule:

Friday, 29 June / 9:30 am / Kabayan Restaurant (White vs Black); Al Rashed vs Al Nuzha, Kabayan vs Hatid-Ligaya, JM Int'l vs Far East Bank, Kirby bye.



Assatis (2nd left) stays ahead of the pack to win the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

Maharlika score easy victory over Chiquita

MAHARLIKA CAFE capitalized on the manpower shortage of Chiquita to come up with a 4-0 winning score in their game played on Thursday. After this big victory, Maharlika bounced back into contention in this on-going PBAK All Filipino Summer League.

In their first game, both teams played with only four players but Maharlika still prevailed over the Chiquita Banana Masters in that game and then the food experts availed the services of Jui Rivers in the next two games to complete their feat. Leading bowlers for Maharlika were Roger Pacheco, George Abenja and Mel Corvera. For Chiquita, Arthur Reyes and Lando Cabrao were the top scorers.

In the other match between rivals West Africa Establishment and Jade Int'l, Trading, the African massage experts battled back from their first game setback to beat the Jade Trade masters 3 games to one. Responsible for West Africa's success were Rene Cabardo, Danny Nabong and Milo Coronado. For Jade, whose team members provided a lot of extra entertainment to the spectators, the top players were Dami Nardo and Madz Garcia. The other team members were Egay Cruz, Danny, Rene, Ding, Andi and Rolly Mendoza.

In Friday's scheduled games, Magnolia turned back a fighting Kay and Associates to register their second perfect winning score of 4-0. The local Cream associates stamped their class once more and made it clear that they are the more than Balis, Celso Estrada, Bobot Labiani, Rod Dulay, Edwin Ramos, Joel Boncillo, Willy Sahay and Jojo Medrano.

In the women's side of the competition, opening day winners Chiquita and Kay & Associates came up with a 3-2 draw to stay on top of the standings with Associates won games 1 & 3 but failed to overhaul the Banana Lovers' Lady big winning advantage in the second game so the bonus point went to the Lady Lovers.

For Chiquita Lynne Reyes and Nitz Alina were the top scorers assisted by Chit, Young, Mercy and Cecile while for Kay, Amy Abdon, Beng from Grace and Irma.

And to complete last week's results, Far East Restaurant rekindled their hopes of retaining the title after they defeated Shell Super Plus 3 games to 1. Vangie, Cescil and Grace provided the main appetizers.

Gullit & Co. need to improve

W. Germans face Dutch

Charity match: Pele and a host of other famous names from the past will play in a charity soccer match next month to help fight hunger and poverty in the Third World. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said on Friday that Pele, Michel Platini and Paolo Rossi were among those who had agreed to take part in the July 2 European-American match.

Cup entries: Proposals to increase the quota of countries from Africa, Asia and Central and North America taking part in the World Cup finals will be considered later this year. Fifa president Josep Havelange said on Friday. Havelange said Fifa's executive committee would discuss a new system for allocating places in the final at its next meeting in December and would consider increasing quotas for non-European and non-South American nations.

Alcohol ban: The northwestern port of Genoa on Friday became the fifth Italian city to soften a World Cup alcohol ban, saying fears of hooligan violence had diminished. The match play has remained calm in Genoa for the first round of the Cup when there were fears of violence by English hooligans passing through the port on their way to Sardinia where the England team were based.

Soviet players: Soviet players threatened to remain in Italy after their team was ousted from the World Cup unless financial promises were kept by their federation, a French newspaper reported Friday. The sports paper L'Equipe said that the Soviet players were promised 20 per cent of the sponsors' fees as partial payment for their participation in the World Cup.

Bonuses given: Ireland's World Cup team became \$140,000 richer Friday after a 1-1 draw with the Netherlands that kept them in the World Cup. The Football Association, which has paid the 22-member squad already picked up \$350,000 bonuses by qualifying for the World Cup. If it reaches the final, the team would receive \$1 million.

Ivkovic recovering: Goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic is recovering from a shoulder injury and is expected to be fit for Yugoslavia's World Cup second-round game against Spain, the team spokesman said Friday. "He is doing well, he should be able to play," Ivkovic's manager said at the team's new training headquarters at Garda, near Verona.

Top goal scorers: Spanish midfielder Michel Llorca scored goals and leads all World Cup players with four after the first round. But he said Friday he would trade his place at the head of the scorers' list for a chance to keep playing at the top of his form.

Cup tickets: A record of more than 1.6 million tickets, worth \$9.4 billion (€73 million), were sold for the 36 first round World Cup matches, according to official figures released on Friday. The number of tickets sold was nearly 400,000 more than at the same stage of the 1986 finals in Mexico.



W. German coach Franz Beckenbauer ponders over his line-up. (Reuter wirephoto)



Klinsmann uses a megaphone to calm down pupils of Milan's German School queuing up for autographs of members of his team. (Reuter wirephoto)

MILAN, June 23, (Reuter): West Germany will have their World Cup aspirations tested to the full in the second round tomorrow when they face European champions the Netherlands, the nation they beat to lift the world title 16 years ago.

"Holland is the toughest draw of all," said assistant coach Bert Vogts, a member of the side which triumphed over the Dutch in the 1974 final.

The West Germans were installed by the bookmakers as title favourites after their first two rousing performances in the first round and should beat the Dutch on form.

The Netherlands have been far short of the brilliant best which carried them to the European championship title in 1988, disposing of hosts West Germany 2-1 in the semifinals.

But their superb pedigree ensures they remain the most dangerous of opponents, even though they failed to win any of their Group F matches, drawing 1-1 with outsiders Egypt, 0-0 with England and 1-1 with Ireland.

West Germany, at their most incisive for years, eclipsed Yugoslavia 4-1 and the United Arab Emirates 5-1 in Group D before dropping their concentration in a 1-1 draw against Colombia.

No other team came close to matching their 10-goal aggregate, largely supplied by their captain Lothar Matthaus (three) and strikers Rudi Voeller (three) and Jurgen Klinsmann (two).

Much will hinge on the battle between the three West Germans of Inter Milan and the three Dutchmen of AC Milan, who will turn the clash in the San Siro Stadium into something of a local derby.

Misled
Inter trio Matthaus, Klinsmann and defender Andreas Brehme played key parts in the Group D successes, with Brehme's raids on the left flank badly missed against the Colombians when the player was suspended for one match after two bookings.

Rudolf Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, the Dutchmen who helped AC Milan win the European Cup twice in a row, will also reveal in the passionate atmosphere of the soccer temple of San Siro with its crowds of over 70,000.

Gullit, yet to recapture his full powers after missing the best part of a year through injury, continued his revival with a fine goal against Ireland in Palermo on Thursday.

"I was very disappointed with the first two matches but now I feel really liberated," he said. "We played much better and now we can only play better still."

They will indeed need to raise their game, with Van Basten rediscovering his sharp-shooting form in a Dutch attack which has so far mustered only two goals — one from Wim Kieft and the other from Gullit.

The odds seem stacked in favour of the West Germans, who have had two extra days to recuperate after last Tuesday's Group D closer, compared with the Dutch who were in action on Thursday night.

While the Dutch were making the long haul north from Sicily yesterday, the West Germans could stay at their base near Lake Como and look forward to playing their fourth straight game in Milan.

But the West Germans can afford no lapses under the knockout system, which excludes the possibility of draws like the ones that resulted when they clashed twice with the Dutch in the qualifying tournament for Italy as well as in the second round of the 1978 World Cup in Argentina.

Probable teams: West Germany — Bodo Illgner (1); Thomas Berthold (14), Jurgen Kohler (9), Klaus Augenthaler (5), Guido Buchwald (6), Andreas Brehme (3), Pierre Littbarski (7), Lothar Matthaus (10), Uwe Bein (15), Rudi Voeller (9), Jurgen Klinsmann (18).

Netherlands — Hans van Breukelen (1); Berry van Aerle (2), Ronald Koeman (4), Frank Rijkaard (3), Adrie van Tiggelen (5), Jan Wouters (6), Richard Witte (11), Ruud Gullit (10), Wim Kieft (12), Marco van Basten (9), Hans Gillhaus (17).

Kick off: Sunday, 10.00 pm (Kuwait time)

Wright makes up for lost time

CAGLIARI, June 23, (Reuter): England defender Mark Wright, the goalscoring hero of their 1-0 win over Egypt, is making up for lost time after two years in the international wilderness.

Wright, 26, a tall and skilful central defender, missed out on the 1986 World Cup finals after breaking a leg, but he returned to the England team for the 1988 European championship finals when the same misfortune struck Terry Butcher.

But, despite a very impressive performance against the Netherlands when many judged him England's best player, Wright was dropped from the national squad by manager Bobby Robson and did not return until earlier this year when he appeared as a substitute against Czechoslovakia.

And when he was called up to play as sweeper in a five-man defence for England's Group F clash with the Netherlands it was the first time he had appeared in England's starting line-up for two years.

Ironically, when Robson abandoned the sweeper system and reverted to a flat back four for the clash with Egypt, Wright held his place at the expense of Butcher.

"He gets it down well. He is good on the ground and he has pace. He was also shown to be a sweeper."

"We had that in mind when he was selected. The squad is picked on performances over the last 18 months to two years with the clubs and we knew what he could do."

Charlton knows little about next opponents

GENOA, June 23, (Reuter): Ireland manager Jack Charlton's only concern after leading his side into the second round of the World Cup on their first appearance in the finals is that he has never seen their next opponents Romania in action.

"I don't know the first thing about Romania. I've only seen glimpses on television in the past two weeks when they scored — never a whole game. It's the only Eastern European side we don't know," the manager said.

But Charlton, who in four years has transformed Ireland from a talented but uncompetitive side to disciplined winners, said he knew what to expect.

"All Eastern European sides play the same way — with a sweeper, man-to-man marking, and full backs who can push forward. They are also technically gifted," he said.

"But we don't look so much at tactics, but at the other team's way of always moving the ball between certain players. Our style is, in fact, designed to upset teams who play with a rigid pattern — like the Eastern Europeans."

Charlton, who played in England's 1966 World Cup winning side, said he had no injury problems after Thursday's 1-1 draw with the Netherlands in Palermo, their third successive draw in the first phase.

"There are a few bruises, nothing serious."

Charlton said he was optimistic about Ireland's prospects in the knockout section of the tournament. "The difficult thing was to get through to the second round. Now we've justified being in the competition. Everything from now on is a bonus."

"We play a Cup tie type of game. I wouldn't want to manage the teams who will be facing us," he said.

Romania complained yesterday that greedy foreign soccer teams were upsetting the training of the World Cup squad by trying to snap up the country's promising young players.

Worried at the rash of talent-spotting, the government issued a statement warning off foreign sides seeking to recruit its best youngsters.

"The attempts of foreign managers and clubs, encouraged by personal interests, to obtain the transfer of very young Romanian footballers at the beginning of their career are entirely inappropriate," Sports Minister Mircea Angelescu said in a statement.



Maradona has his bruised ankle examined. Right: Lazaroni carries a goal-net to the field. (Reuter wirephotos)



Brazil tipped to win 'Argentina must play faster game'

ASTI, Italy, June 23, (AP): Brazil meet Argentina in a second-round showdown tomorrow that sends one team forward in the World Cup and the other back to Latin America.

Based on current form and individual skills, Brazil is favoured over the defending world champion Argentines.

But when South America's two soccer titans clash, so much is at stake and tensions run so high that anything is possible. In the first round, Argentina showed just enough of its old skill and Brazil just enough weakness to make any prediction risky.

Wily attacker Diego Maradona, the hero of Argentina's 1986 World Cup triumph, is the great variable. Although not 100 per cent fit, he's threatening to explode after being shut out in three first-round matches.

"It would take a miracle for Argentina to win the game," Maradona admitted, "but miracles do happen, especially when Brazil and Argentina play."

Brazil won all its first round matches — 2-1 over Sweden and 1-0 against Costa Rica and Scotland — but the meager scores and lack of flair in the attack raised many questions.

Coach Sebastiao Lazaroni was roasted by Brazilian soccer experts for dropping the dazzling 'samba style' attack for a slower, more defense-oriented European strategy.

Brazil does have the advantage of a more settled side. The team hasn't changed greatly since the start of the tournament, and there is good understanding amongst its players. "Our team has lots of character. The qualification has really galvanised the squad," said midfielder Dunga.

In tomorrow's match, Muller is expected to win back his starting position as attacker, and Ricardo Rocha to retain his position as defender. Rocha replaced

the suspended Mozer against Scotland, and his greater speed will be needed to contain the surging runs of Claudio Caniggia, one of Argentina's most dangerous players.

Argentina struggled through the first stage of the World Cup, stung by a 1-0 opening loss to Cameroon that ranks as the biggest upset in the history of the tournament.

The Argentines managed a 2-0 victory over the Soviet Union and a 1-1 draw with Romania to scrap into the second round.

Argentina's experienced goalkeeper, Nery Pumpido, suffered a broken leg in a match with Soviet Union, and his understudy Sergio Goycochea will start. In addition, Batista, a veteran of two World Cups who hasn't played well in this one, will lose his place to Ricardo Giusti.

Many Brazilian players, however, are concentrating on only one player. "Maradona is half the team, he is definitely the most inspired player in the world," Lazaroni said.

Marking Maradona won't be entrusted to one person, but rather will be a team effort.

"You can't cover Maradona with one man," said Alemao. "We will all have to be attentive, to be alert all the time."

Brazil's goalie Tefelari, who will be on the receiving end of Maradona's short shots and fearsome free kicks, is also worried about paying too much attention to the superstar. "Maradona isn't going to be alone. We also have other players to worry about," he said.

Brazil is aiming for a record fourth World Cup, but it hasn't won the trophy since 1970. Argentina took the prize at home in 1978 and again in Mexico in 1986.

When the teams met last year at the South American championships, Brazil won 2-0 and then went on to beat Uruguay in the final.



Brazil's Mauro Galva (left) and Muller exercise during an early morning session. (Reuter wirephoto)

Navratilova goes for record 9th title

LONDON, June 23, (Reuter): When Martina Navratilova first played at Wimbledon in 1973, Steffi Graf had just celebrated her fourth birthday and Monica Seles was not even born.

Seventeen years on, the remarkable Navratilova is still a force to be reckoned with but time has started to run out. The youthful "brat pack" of women's tennis are hard on her heels.

Now 33 years old, Navratilova's cherished ambition over the next fortnight is to win her ninth Wimbledon title, finally

eclipsing the record of the great American Helen Wills-Moody.

If will power and determination were the only ingredients of a Wimbledon champion, Navratilova could start writing her victory speech now.

But she knows the emergence of Graf, the 16-year-old Seles and the still more precocious Jennifer Capriati have added a new dimension to the women's game that threatens to leave her behind.

This year's Wimbledon could be her best hope of making one

last successful stand. But she may have to overcome a slight knee injury after needing to tape it at Eastbourne yesterday during a semifinal, which she won.

"I wanted to see if I could still play well if the knee was sore. I did, so there's no reason why I can't soldier on next week," she said.

Navratilova has come a long way since her teenage years when Chris Evert used to buy her hamburgers in a less-than-subtle attempt to sabotage her opponent's weight-watching efforts.

There are now few fitter players in the women's game and Navratilova has not been idle at home in Texas since losing to Seles in the Italian Open final on May 13.

But there lies the snag. While the ex-champion has been preparing away from the spotlight, Seles' reputation, in particular has been growing where it matters most — on court.

The 16-year-old Yugoslav's French Open success only served to prove how quickly the game moves on.

It is now almost three years since Navratilova won her last Grand Slam title, the 1987 US Open. She goes into Wimbledon, her warm-up matches at Eastbourne aside, knowing that her last competitive match, against Seles in Rome, ended in a 6-1 6-1 defeat.

Yet a quick glance at the Wimbledon draw suggests there is no reason why Navratilova should not reach her 11th final on the hallowed turf of the All England Club.

Seeded second behind Graf, all her main rivals are conveniently lurking in the opposite half of the draw.

Katerina Maleva of Bulgaria is her prospective quarterfinal opponent with either Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina or Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain lik-

ely to materialise at the semifinal stage. On grass, neither has the firepower to match the Czech-born left-hander.

"I'm playing much better than last year," asserts Navratilova. "My second service is much improved and I feel I have a real chance of number nine."

Graf, chasing her third successive Wimbledon title, will be motivated by her failure to win the title in Paris. The West German is the only woman capable of matching Navratilova in the fitness stakes.

Seles is the girl in form and the 14-year-old Capriati, subject this week of a £1,000 bet at 40-1 by a British punter to win Wimbledon, will have her admirers.

Navratilova won her ninth Eastbourne title today with a 6-0, 6-2 victory over fellow-American Gretchen Magers.

The match, played in a strong wind, took just 47 minutes and was the most one-sided final at Eastbourne since Wendy Turnbull claimed just two games from Navratilova in 1983.

Navratilova had a busy day, first disposing of Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union 7-6 6-1.

John McEnroe today pleaded with Wimbledon to put a glass dome over its famous centre court.

The fiery American, seeded fourth for Wimbledon next week, dropped two matches at the Wentworth Classic and has no chance of winning it now.

But the three-times Wimbledon champion said of the famous arena where he won his three titles: "It would be fantastic if they could put one of those clear domes over the court and it's something I'd like to see in the future."

Yannick Noah of France produced one of his finest performances on grass to reach the final of the Writtle Men's Tennis Tournament yesterday.



Navratilova pumps herself up during her match against Zvereva. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Milla finds his target twice

Cameroon reach quarterfinals

NAPLES, Italy, June 23. (AP) Substitute striker Roger Milla scored twice in extra time to lift Cameroon to a 2-1 victory over Colombia today in a second-round World Cup match.

The goals were 38-year-old Milla's third and fourth of the tournament and made Cameroon the first African nation to reach the quarterfinals in the 60-year history of the World Cup.

The teams had been level 0-0 at the end of the regulation 90 minutes. The match was a dull one, with both teams cautious and unable to create scoring chances.

Milla, who came out of retirement to play in the tournament, also scored two goals against Romania in the first round.

His four goals make him the tournament's joint top-scorer, along with Spanish midfielder Michel, who also has scored four goals.

Milla's first goal came in the 16th minute of extra time when he took on and beat two defenders and rifled a shot past goalkeeper Rene Higuita.

He struck again three minutes later, when Higuita recklessly ventured upfield. Milla robbed him off the ball and headed for goal, firing a low shot into the unguarded net.

Bernardo Redin scored a consolation goal for Colombia with four minutes of extra time remaining.

Four Cameroon players: Andre Kana Biyik, Akim N'Dip, Emile Mbouh and Jules Onana received yellow cards during the match.

All had received yellow cards previously in the tournament, according to the official Fifa list. All face one-game suspensions.

Cameroon will play either England or Belgium in the quarterfinals of the tournament. Those teams play each other on Tuesday in Bologna.



Carlos Valderrama (right) of Colombia and Cameroon's Emile Mbouh fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Today's matches

1. Argentina vs Brazil, 6.00 pm (Kuwait time).
 2. W. Germany vs The Netherlands, 10.00 pm.
- Both matches will be shown live by KTV.

Milla's goals broke open the match just when it seemed it was destined to be decided by a penalty shootout.

"This victory is for my country ... and for all of Africa," Milla said. "We will put ourselves to work immediately to begin preparing for the quarterfinals."

Colombia dominated the first half, but was unable to find a way through the packed Cameroon defense.

Midfielders Carlos Valderrama and Leonel Alvarez created a series of chances for speedy strikers Freddy Rincón and Carlos Estrada, but the Colombian finishing was erratic.

Estrada broke clear in the seventh minute, but his lazy sidefooted shot was easily saved by goalkeeper Thomas N'Kono.

Luis Fajardo came close to opening the scoring in the 22nd minute, but his raspy shot flew across the face of goal.

Cameroon carved a good chance in the 30th minute when Francois Omani Biyik broke down the right and crossed to Cyrille Makanaky, who headed his shot inches over the crossbar.

Colombia regained control, however, and Estrada forced a sharp save from N'Kono after the Cameroon defense failed to clear a free-kick.

Seconds before the halftime break, Rincón hit a powerful free-kick that beat N'Kono but bounced off the junction of the post and crossbar.

Both defenses kept a tight grip during the second half and both attacks tended to over-elaborate.

Clearcut chances were at a minimum — and it was the same pattern in extra time until Milla exploded.

The veteran had replaced Louis Mfede in the 53rd minute.

Colombia, which like

Cameroon was playing in the second round for the first time, also had two players cautioned. Luis Peres and Gabriel Gomez both given yellow cards by Italian referee Tullio Lanese.

"I don't believe this result reflects the total game," said Colombian coach Francisco Maturana. "I believe that we played a good game. ... But I want to wish Cameroon the best of luck."

England trained behind closed doors today without a trio of injured first-choice players as they began final preparations for Tuesday's World Cup second round clash with Belgium in Bologna.

Captain and midfielder Bryan Robson, who has a strained Achilles tendon, striker Gary Lineker, who has a damaged toe, and defender Des Walker, who has a sore calf, were all unable to join the session.

Rohsoo and Lineker were both at the Pula Muoiepal Stadium in their training kit, but took no part in the workout.

British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan held out hope today of a return by English clubs to European soccer next season if English supporters avoid hooliganism during the rest of the World Cup finals.

Moynihan said the vast majority of fans behaved well during England's three Group F matches in Sardinia, noting that the 44 arrests made there over a three-week period compared with the 4,000 to 6,000 England supporters who travelled to the island.

The European Football Union (Uefa) has said its decision on whether to readmit English sides to European club tournaments after a five-year ban rests largely on fans' conduct in Italy and on a recommendation by the British government.



Colombia's Leonel Alvarez (right) falls down after colliding with Cameroon's Louis Mfede. (Reuters wirephoto)



Cameroon's Victor N'Dip (left) tackles Leonel Alvarez. (Reuters wirephoto)

All Blacks overcome Scotland

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, June 23. (Reuters) Kicking machine Grant Fox booted New Zealand to a 21-18 rugby union victory over an inspired Scotland in a thrilling second and final Test today.

Lifted by fullback Gavin Hastings, who attacked, defended and kicked brilliantly, Scotland took the lead in the third minute and surrendered it with only eight minutes to go after leading 18-12 at halftime.

Hastings rocked the world champion All Blacks, who have not been beaten for four years, with two huge 50 metre penalties in the first six minutes.

His play inspired the whole team, and both wings — Alex Moore and Tony Stanger — scored grand first-half tries.

Scotland outscored New Zealand by two tries to one but in the first test, won 31-16 by the All Blacks, the home forwards dominated possession. Flyhalf Fox was able to convert mistakes with the greasy ball despite the wet conditions.

In all Fox kicked five penalties and converted prop Richard Lee's first-half try.

"That's what you call a Test match," All Black captain Wayne Shelford said. "She was tough."

Cricketers may be sanctioned

LONDON, June 23. (Reuters) Cricketers misbehaving on the field could be sent off in future if the sport's ruling body accepts proposals aimed at improving the game's image.

The International Cricket Conference, which starts a two-day meeting on Thursday, will also consider calls for an international umpires' panel, a limit of one bounce on an over and a penalty for slow over rates.

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